



President Barack Obama makes a statement about the developing situation on the Crimean Peninsula and Russia on the South Lawn of the White House, in Washington, March 20, 2014. Obama announced he would expand sanctions against Russia Thursday, targeting individuals who support the government and a bank with ties to these associates.

(Doug Mills/The New York Times)

US, Russia Swap Sanctions Over Crimea

MARK LANDLER
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WASHINGTON - President Barack Obama on Thursday announced that he would expand sanctions against Russia, blacklisting wealthy individuals with ties to the government

and a bank used by them, and opening the door to broader measures against Russian energy exports. The measures deliver on Obama's warning this week that the United States would ratchet up the costs for Russia if President Vladi-

mir Putin moved to annex the breakaway province of Crimea. But they were aimed at forestalling further Russian incursions into eastern Ukraine, after what Obama described as troubling Russian military movements.

In a tit-for-tat response, Moscow banned nine U.S. officials from entering Russia, including Speaker John A. Boehner; the Senate Democratic leader, Harry Reid of Nevada; and Sen. John McCain of Arizona, as well as three senior White

House officials. In a statement accompanying the list, Russia's Foreign Ministry denounced the U.S. sanctions as a tool "from the arsenal of the past" that would backfire.

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VENEZUELA MOVES SWIFTLY AGAINST OPPOSITION PARTY



MICHELLE OBAMA TO AVOID POLITICS ON BEIJING VISIT

US, Russia swap sanctions over Crimea

Continued from Front

"There should be no doubt: for every hostile attack, we will respond appropriately," the statement said. The Russian action was met with a mixture of bemusement and mild defiance in Washington. Michael Steel, a spokesman for Boehner, said, "The speaker is proud to be included on a list of those willing to stand against Putin's aggression." Obama made a statement on the South Lawn of the White House on Thurs-

Russia. Putin's spokesman, Dmitry S. Peskov, denounced the sanctions as unacceptable and suggested that one of those on the list, Putin's chief of staff, Sergei B. Ivanov, had spent more than 20 years in the KGB's foreign intelligence service and had already been banned by "a majority of countries in the West," he told Interfax, adding: "So he is quite accustomed to this situation." Ivanov is a close friend and aide to Putin, the two having joined the KGB to-

burg shortly after the collapse of the Soviet Union, said he was being punished for political reasons. "I'm sorry that a country that calls itself democratic uses sanctions for an honest position and for honest statements," he told Interfax. On Monday, the administration announced sanctions against seven Russian officials, including several close advisers to Putin, as well as against separatists figures in Crimea. The executive order signed by Obama laid the legal groundwork to



Russian President Vladimir Putin, left, and businessman and billionaire Arkady Rotenberg, right, in St. Petersburg, Russia. President Barack Obama on Thursday expanded U.S. economic sanctions against Moscow over its actions in Ukraine, targeting Putin's chief of staff and 19 other individuals as well as a Russian bank that provides them support. Those named in the sanctions Thursday, March 20, 2014, include Rotenberg, a lifelong Putin friend whose company has amassed billions of dollars in government contracts.

(AP Photo/RIA-Novosti, Mikhail Klimentyev)

day before leaving on a trip to Florida. "The United States is today moving, as we said we would, to impose additional costs on Russia," he said. "These are all choices that the Russian government has made, choices that have been rejected by the international community." Obama also said he had signed a new executive order that would allow him to impose sanctions on Russian industrial sectors, presumably including its energy exports - a step that would greatly tighten the economic pressure on

gether in 1975. Ivanov, who speaks perfect English and Swedish, is believed to have served undercover in Helsinki and London. He has served beside Putin throughout his presidency and was considered a possible successor when Putin stepped down after two terms in 2008, anointing instead another close aide, Dmitry Medvedev, now the prime minister. Another Russian singled out, Vladimir I. Yakunin, the head of the Russian Railways and also a close adviser and friend to Putin since they met in St. Peters-

burg shortly after the collapse of the Soviet Union, said he was being punished for political reasons. "I'm sorry that a country that calls itself democratic uses sanctions for an honest position and for honest statements," he told Interfax. On Monday, the administration announced sanctions against seven Russian officials, including several close advisers to Putin, as well as against separatists figures in Crimea. The executive order signed by Obama laid the legal groundwork to

At Press Time: 2 objects seen in sea still best lead in plane search

**KRISTEN GELINEAU
SCOTT MCDONALD
Associated Press**

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP) — A freighter used searchlights early Friday to scan rough seas in one of the remotest places on Earth after satellite images detected possible pieces from the missing Malaysia Airlines plane in the southern Indian Ocean.

In what officials called the "best lead" of the nearly two-week-old aviation mystery, a satellite detected two large objects floating about 1,000 miles off the southwestern coast of Australia and halfway to the desolate islands of the Antarctic.

The development raised new hope of finding the vanished jet and sent another emotional jolt to the families of the 239 people aboard.

Australian authorities said in a statement early Friday that the search had turned up nothing so far. Efforts were resuming with four military aircraft planning to scour more than 13,000 square miles (35,000 square kilometers) of ocean.

One of the objects on the satellite image was 24 meters (almost 80 feet) long and the other was 5 meters (15 feet). There could be other objects in the area, a four-hour flight from Australia, said John Young, manager of the Australian Maritime Safety Authority's emergency response division.

"This is a lead, it's probably the best lead we have right now," Young said. He cautioned that the objects could be seaborne debris along a shipping route where containers can fall off cargo vessels, although the larger object is longer than a container.

The Norwegian cargo vessel Hoegh St. Petersburg, with a Filipino crew of 20, arrived in the area and used searchlights after dark to look for debris. It will continue the search Friday, said Ingar Skiaker of Hoegh Autoliners, speaking to reporters in Oslo.

The Norwegian ship, which transports cars, was on its way from South Africa to Australia, he said. The Australian Maritime Safety Authority said another commercial ship and an Australian navy vessel were also en route to the search area. Satellite imagery experts said the lead is worth investigating.

"It would be very nice if you could see a whole wing floating there, then you could say, 'OK that's an airplane,'" said Sean O'Connor, an imagery analyst with IHS Jane's. In the case of these satellite images, "you can't tell what it is" so closer examination is critical.

Another analyst said the debris is most likely not pieces of Malaysia Airlines Flight 370. There have been several false leads since the Boeing 777 disappeared March 8 above the Gulf of Thailand en route from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing. "The chances of it being debris from the airplane are probably small, and the chances of it being debris from other shipping are probably large," said Jason Middleton, an aviation professor at the University of New South Wales in Sydney.

The development marked a new phase for the anguished relatives of the passengers, who have been critical of Malaysian officials for what the relatives say has been the slow release of timely information. While they still hope their loved ones will somehow be found, they acknowledged that news of the satellite images could mean the plane fell into the sea.

"If it turns out that it is truly MH370, then we will accept that fate," said Selamat Bin Omar, the father of a Malaysian passenger. The jet carried mostly Chinese and Malaysian nationals. □

U.S. gym faces suit for Muslim head covering

ALBUQUERQUE, New Mexico (AP) — A gym refused to let a Muslim woman wear her religious head covering when she tried to work out, according to a new lawsuit against the company.

An attorney for Tarainia McDaniel, 37, recently filed the lawsuit in a New Mexico district court stemming from a 2011 clash at a Planet Fitness that prevented McDaniel from using the gym while wearing the head covering, even though court documents said another Planet Fitness in the area had previously let her do so, the Albuquerque Journal reports (<http://goo.gl/lqi6Xj>).

McDaniel joined the New Hampshire-based gym chain Planet Fitness in Albuquerque on a two-year contract and later transferred to another location, according to the lawsuit. On Oct. 3, 2011, she was turned away at her new gym and was told the informal head covering didn't meet its dress code, the lawsuit states.

The gym had a sign that said "no jeans, work boots, bandanas, skull caps or revealing apparel."

McDaniel said she asked to be allowed to wear the informal head covering to accommodate her Muslim faith, and she even asked if she should come back wearing a formal head covering known as the hijab, according to the lawsuit.

But the gym denied her requests, the lawsuit states.

Planet Fitness attorney Erika Anderson said the head covering violates the gym's dress-code policy. "My client's position is that they didn't know the head covering was for religious purposes,"

Anderson said.

Anderson said she could not comment further on pending litigation.

In a statement, the company said gyms take into account members' religious affiliations. "At Planet Fitness, our policy is, and has always been."

Reid orders computer review in CIA rift



Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid of Nev. faces reporters on Capitol Hill in Washington. Reid, said Thursday that he had ordered a forensic examination of the Senate Intelligence Committee's computer equipment to answer what he called the CIA's "absurd" claims that the committee's staff had hacked into the agency's network.

(AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite)

DAVID S. JOACHIM
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WASHINGTON - The Senate majority leader, Harry Reid, said Thursday that he had ordered a forensic examination of the Senate Intelligence Committee's computer equipment to answer what he called the CIA's "absurd" claims that the committee's staff had hacked into the agency's network.

Reid's order is the latest round of an escalating fight between the CIA and the Intelligence Committee, which has oversight authority over the agency.

Last week, Sen. Dianne Feinstein, the chairwoman of the committee, accused the CIA of monitoring computers used by committee staff members to complete

their investigation of the agency's detention and interrogation programs - an action she said may have broken the law. She said that the agency had also improperly removed documents from the committee's computers on two other occasions in 2010.

In a Jan. 27 letter to Feinstein that became public last week, the CIA director, John O. Brennan, did not directly accuse the committee of computer hacking. He said that documents "may have been improperly obtained and/or retained" on a part of the CIA's computer network that had been designated for the committee's use.

Brennan has denied that the agency spied on the committee. CIA lawyers

have referred a case to the Justice Department alleging that committee aides gained unauthorized access to CIA computer systems to obtain an internal classified report on the interrogation program, which has come to be called the "Panetta Report," After Leon E. Panetta, the former CIA director.

The Justice Department, which is also reviewing Feinstein's accusations, is reluctant to investigate either referral because of the constitutional questions about separation of powers raised by the conflict.

In letters sent to Brennan and Attorney General Eric H. Holder Jr. on Wednesday, Reid said he had instructed the Senate's sergeant-at-arms to conduct

a forensic analysis of the committee's computers to resolve the question of misbehavior on the part of committee staff members.

"The C.I.A. has produced no evidence to support its claims that Senate committee staff who have no technical training somehow hacked into the C.I.A.'s highly secure classified networks, an allegation that appears on its face to be patently absurd," Reid wrote to Brennan.

In his letter to Holder, Reid singled out a former acting general counsel of the CIA, Robert Eatinger, for referring the CIA's claims to the Justice Department even though he was mentioned 1,600 times in the Intelligence Committee's report on CIA interrogation. Reid added that the referral "appears to be a transparent attempt to intimidate the committee and undermine its oversight of the agency."

Democratic senators have claimed that the Panetta review, which is still classified, is broadly consistent with the Intelligence Committee's voluminous report about the CIA's now-defunct detention and interrogation program.

According to several people who have read the committee's report, it concludes that the agency gained little valuable intelligence from its brutal questioning of al-Qaida detainees, and that CIA officials repeatedly misled the White House, Congress and the public about the value of the program.

Israeli minister apologizes to US for remarks

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israel's defense minister has apologized to his U.S. counterpart for criticizing Washington and for calling it weak when it comes to its stance on Iran's nuclear program.

A statement from Moshe Yaalon's office late Wednesday said he phoned U.S. Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel and told him he hadn't intended to harm relations be-

tween the two close allies. "I have a very deep appreciation for the ties between the states and for you personally," Yaalon told Hagel, according to the statement.

"I am fully committed to these ties and to cooperation between Israel and the United States in any form." This week, Yaalon questioned Washington's commitment to

Israel's security. He said Israel cannot depend on the United States to lead any action against Iran's nuclear program and can only rely on itself.

Earlier, he also criticized U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry, saying the top American diplomat was unrealistic and naive in trying to forge an Israeli-Palestinian peace deal.

In a statement Thursday,

the Defense Department said Hagel "expressed deep concern" to Yaalon about his remarks.

Kerry on Wednesday called Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to protest Yaalon's remarks.

State Department spokeswoman Jen Psaki said Thursday that Kerry has "remaining concerns about the pattern" of Yaalon's comments.

Report: California is top crime target

Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, California (AP) — California is the top target in the U.S. for international criminal enterprises that operate from safe havens in Eastern Europe, Africa and China, according to a report released Thursday. Along with trafficking in drugs, guns and people, criminals are also turning to cybercrime to target wealthy, innovative businesses and financial institutions in the state, the report by the state attorney general says. "We know that they use technology directly in a way that perpetuates and commits crimes, in particular the crimes of hacking and data breaches and mal-

ware," California Attorney General Kamala Harris said as she released the report in Los Angeles.

The Los Angeles region is particularly vulnerable to digital piracy, she said, because it produces much of the nation's movies and other mass-market media. Harris said the 181-page report is the first to outline the effects of international criminal organizations on California residents and businesses. It says California leads all states in the number of computer systems hacked or infected by malware; victims of Internet crimes and identity theft; and the amount of financial losses suffered as a result of online crimes.



California Attorney General Kamala D. Harris, second from left, with Long Beach Police Chief Jim McDonnell, left, Los Angeles Deputy Police Chief Michel Moore, and Los Angeles interim County Sheriff John Scott, join law enforcement officials, as Harris releases the first comprehensive report detailing the impact of transnational criminal organizations in California.

(AP Photo/Nick Ut)

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The report says many of the breaches have been tied to criminal organizations operating out of locations including Russia, Ukraine, China and Nigeria.

"Their impact is tremendous, in the hundreds of millions of dollars from small business, mom and pop

operations, who lose their very existence to a financial crime, to a scheme that's being originated out of Romania, out of Egypt, out of Israel, out of parts well off of our shores," Los Angeles police Assistant Chief Michel R. Moore said at the news conference. □

Killer who set 2 afire executed

**B. FARRINGTON
Associated Press**

STARKE, Florida (AP) — A Florida man convicted of killing two female co-workers by beating them with a hammer and setting them ablaze during a robbery at the store where they worked was executed Thursday evening.

One witness to the lethal injection blurted out "Die!" as the inmate read his last statement.

Authorities say 55-year-old Robert L. Henry was pronounced dead following the injection at the Florida State Prison.

He was convicted of two counts of first-degree murder in the Nov. 2, 1987, slayings of 53-year-old Phyllis Harris and 35-year-old Janet Thermidor.

Thermidor lived for hours after being attacked and identified Henry to investigators. Michael Satz, prosecutor at Henry's trial, told

jurors the killings were evil. Before the execution, Henry read a three-minute statement apologizing for his crimes and saying he hoped his death would comfort the families of the victims. He also criticized the death penalty, saying thieves don't get their hands amputated as punishment. "Why then do we continue to be the murderers of those who have murdered?" he said.

At that point, an unidentified victim family member who was witnessing the execution said in a loud voice: "Die!" The comment wasn't audible through the thick glass partition separating witnesses from the chamber.

Court records show that Henry initially claimed the robbery was committed by three masked intruders who also abducted him, but later he confessed to acting alone. □



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Cops say teen reached World Trade Center spire



Pedestrians in front of the 1 World Trade Center building, left, in New York. A 16-year-old boy from Weehawken, N.J., is accused of bypassing security in the middle of the night and climbing a ladder to the spire of 1 World Trade Center to take pictures according the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey. The teen was arrested on the premises and his camera and cellphone were seized after authorities obtained a search warrant. He was later released without bail. (AP Photo/Bebeto Matthews)

**DAVID PORTER
JENNIFER PELTZ
Associated Press
NEW YORK (AP)** — A 16-year-old boy described as a thrill-seeker bypassed

an inattentive security guard in the middle of the night and climbed a ladder to the spire of 1 World Trade Center, where he apparently took pictures,

authorities said Thursday. Justin Casquejo was arrested at 6 a.m. local time Sunday at America's tallest building and was charged with misdemeanor criminal trespass, police said. Nobody answered the door Thursday at his Weehawken, New Jersey, home. According to a criminal complaint, Casquejo was quoted as telling police: "I walked around the construction site and figured out how to access the Freedom Tower rooftop. I found a way up through the scaffolding, climbed onto the sixth floor, and took the elevator up to the 88th floor. I then took the staircase up to 104th (floor). I went to the rooftop and climbed the ladder all the way to the antenna." He was arrested, and his camera and cellphone were seized after authorities obtained a search warrant, said Joe Pentangelo, a spokesman for the police department of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, which owns the trade center site. Casquejo was released without bail after being arraigned Monday on one count of third-degree criminal trespass and one count of trespass. His lawyer declined to comment. Casquejo's next court date was scheduled for April 2. The episode raised questions about how

such a breach could have happened at one of the most security-conscious sites in the world. New York Mayor Bill de Blasio called it "shocking and troubling." Casquejo got onto the construction site of the nearly completed tower through a 1-foot (0.3-meter) opening in a fence and eluded an inattentive security guard on the 104th floor, Pentangelo said. The guard, who worked for a contractor, not the Port

Authority, has been fired, the spokesman said. The criminal trespass charge is a misdemeanor punished by up to three months in jail. The simple trespass is a violation punishable by up to 15 days in jail. The complaint said Casquejo was observed inside the tower beyond numerous posted signs that stated: "Do not enter. No trespassing. Violators will be prosecuted." □

Man accused of killing parents gets life

FORT PIERCE, Florida (AP) — A man accused of killing his parents and then throwing a party with their bodies still inside their house was ordered Thursday to life in prison without the possibility of parole. Authorities said Tyler Hadley killed his parents, Mary Jo and Blake Hadley, in July 2011 when he was 17, then spent three hours

cleaning up the blood before hosting a party. Hadley pleaded no contest in February to two counts of first-degree murder. Judge Robert R. Makemson in St. Lucie County actually handed Hadley two life sentences, calling the crime brutal, heinous and premeditated. The judge also accused Hadley of manipulating experts and

lying about hearing voices. Hadley's attorney had argued for two 30-year sentences, to be served concurrently, with a review after 20 years. On the night of the killing, police said, Hadley stopped at an ATM and then picked up some friends en route to the party, flashing about \$5,000 in cash. □

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Q&A ON THE NEWS

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Q: President Barack Obama uses several pens when he signs an important document. Photos show him using more than one pen. Does he sign his name more than once on the document?

-- **Kathy McDonough, Peachtree Corners, Ga.**

A: Obama, like many other presidents before him, uses each pen to write a portion of his name when signing important legislation. Obama used 22 pens when he signed the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act on March 23, 2010, saying "This is going to take a little while" before he signed the document. Jim Kratsas, the deputy director of the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library & Museum, told NPR that the presidential signatures often look shaky because they're stopping and starting while writing it. "And the fact is, you know, it's not a fluid signature, like when we sign our checks and so on," he said. "So if you're doing one letter at a time, or even a half a letter with 22 pens, it's got to be a little difficult, to say the least." President John F. Kennedy would spell out his middle name (Fitzgerald) or add a "flourish under his signature," Time reported, if he felt like he would run out of letters before pens. The president often gives the pens to legislators or supporters as keepsakes. Lyndon Johnson used 75 pens when he signed the Civil Rights Bill in 1964, giving one to Martin Luther King Jr.

Q: The president can only serve two terms, but can he serve as vice president? For example, can Bill Clinton run as Hillary Clinton's running mate in 2016?

-- **Ed Moser, Woodstock, Ga.**

A: Constitutional scholars are split on that issue. The 12th Amendment states: "No person constitutionally ineligible to the office of president shall be eligible to that of vice president." "But many scholars agree that this clause would not stop Bill Clinton from running for vice president," UGA law professor Dan Coenen, told Q-and-A on the News in an email. He wrote: "Article II, Section I, Clause 4 addresses the subject of who shall be 'eligible to the office of the president,' and it imposes only a natural-born-citizen requirement, a 35-year-old minimum-age requirement and a 14-year minimum-residency requirement. Therefore, because Bill Clinton is not 'ineligible' to be president, he is 'eligible' to be vice president." Others argue that allowing Bill Clinton to run for vice president would "compromise the underlying purpose of the 22nd Amendment," Coenen wrote, which sets presidential term limits. Additionally, the last line of the 22nd Amendment might imply that even if Bill Clinton is "electable" as vice president, he "could take over as president for no more than two years." There's another issue with a potential Clinton-Clinton ticket. A member of the Electoral College for a particular state can't vote for both a presidential candidate and a vice presidential candidate from the same state, according to the 12th Amendment. That means no elector from New York can vote for two New Yorkers, Coenen wrote, so one of the Clintons would need to move.

Q: Is the U.S. doing anything to reduce Afghanistan's dependence on the opium trade?

-- **Tony Gardner, Cumming, Ga.**

A: The U.S. has spent about \$10 billion since 2002 to combat opium poppy production and the drug trade in Afghanistan, John F. Sopko, the special inspector general of Afghanistan reconstruction, told the U.S. Senate in January. The U.S. has spent \$7 billion on "a wide variety of programs to reduce poppy cultivation, prevent narcotics production, treat drug addiction and improve the criminal justice system to combat drug trafficking," according to Sopko's report.

Most US banks pass Fed 'stress tests'

MARCY GORDON

AP Business Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — All but one of America's 30 largest banks are better able to withstand a severe U.S. recession and global downturn than at any time since the financial crisis, the Federal Reserve has determined.

Results of the Fed's annual "stress tests" showed Thursday that only Zions Bancorp failed to meet the Fed's minimum level of capital to withstand a crisis. The results showed continued improvement in banks' financial positions since the 2008 crisis, the Fed said. That built on positive results from last year's tests.

The 30 banks tested included Bank of America, Citi-

JPMorgan Chase, Morgan Stanley and Bank of America declined to comment on the outcome of their stress tests Thursday. Each planned to release the results of their own internal stress tests later in the day. Goldman Sachs also declined to comment. A call to James Abbott, Zions Bancorp's director of investor relations, was not immediately returned.

Under the Fed's stress tests' "severely adverse" scenario, the U.S. would undergo a recession in which unemployment — now at 6.7 percent — would reach 11.25 percent, stocks would lose nearly half their value and home prices would plunge 25 percent.

Under the test, the losses

The 30 banks were also tested on how well they would withstand severe downturns in Europe and in Asian countries like China and Japan.

The Fed will announce next week whether it will approve plans by some of the banks to increase dividends or buy their own stock.

Nearly all U.S. banks with \$50 billion or more in assets were in the group of 30 that were tested. Together they account for some \$13.5 trillion in assets — about 80 percent of U.S. banks' total amount. Twelve of the 30 banks were added to the testing roster for the first time this year.

Most of the 30 banks tested, along with hundreds of others, received federal



A person walks past a Citibank location, in Philadelphia. As announced Thursday, March 20, 2014, all but one of the nation's 30 largest banks are in a stronger position to withstand a severe U.S. recession and a global downturn than at any time since the financial crisis, the Federal Reserve has determined.

(AP Photo/Matt Rourke)

group, JPMorgan Chase and Wells Fargo.

The Fed has conducted stress tests of the largest U.S. banks every year since 2009, when the financial crisis plunged the country into the worst economic downturn since the Great Depression of the 1930s. The annual checkup is designed to measure how well the industry would fare in another severe recession. It aims to ensure that banks could keep lending during such a punishing stretch.

projected for each bank are compared with the capital each holds as a buffer.

The Fed said that under the crisis scenario, the 30 banks would suffer combined losses on loans of \$366 billion through the fourth quarter of 2015. That's down from projected losses of \$462 billion in last year's tests. Fed officials said the change reflected the banks' progress in shedding delinquent and defaulted loans from their balance sheets.

bailouts during the financial crisis. The banking industry has been recovering steadily since then, with overall profits rising and banks starting to lend more freely. The banks have mostly repaid the taxpayer bailouts.

Zions, the only bank to fall short this year, is based in Salt Lake City. It slid to a loss in the fourth quarter as it booked hefty charges related to losses on investment securities and other one-time items. □

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US Financial Front:

Sales of US existing homes slip to 19-month low

C. S. RUGABER

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) —

Sales of U.S. existing homes slipped in February to their lowest level since July 2012 as severe winter weather, rising prices and a tight supply of homes discouraged buyers.

The National Association of Realtors said Thursday that sales declined 0.4 percent last month to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 4.6 million. That was the sixth decline in the past seven months.

Freezing temperatures and snowstorms likely kept many buyers from visiting open houses. And higher mortgage rates have weighed on sales since last fall. Still, there were some signs that the market could pick up in the coming months. Sales improved in the South and West, where weather was less of a factor. And more people decided to sell, boosting the supply of available homes 6.4 percent to 2 million.



A realtor's sign hangs in front of a house in Mount Lebanon, Pa. The National Association of Realtors released poor existing home sales data for February on Thursday, March 20, 2014.

(AP Photo/Gene J. Puskar)

"Once we get past this messy period, housing should assume its role in supporting overall growth," Jennifer Lee, an economist at BMO Capital Markets, said in a note to clients. Home prices are rising de-

spite the sluggish sales, a sign that the number of homes for sale remains low. The median sales price has risen 9.1 percent in the past year, the Realtors said, to \$189,000. Investors are accounting

for an increasing share of purchases, while first-time buyers remain historically low. All-cash sales, which are mostly by investors, rose to 35 percent of purchases in February, up from 32 percent a year ago.

First-time buyers accounted for only 28 percent of sales in February, slightly more than in January. That's far below the 40 percent that's typical of a healthy market. First-time buyers are being held back by tight credit standards and high levels of student loan debt, the Realtors said.

Sales of existing homes climbed steadily in the first half of last year, reaching an annual pace of 5.38 million in July. And sales totaled 5.1 million in all of 2013, the most in seven years. That's still below the 5.5 million that is consistent with a healthy housing market.

But sales slowed in the fall as rising mortgage rates and higher home prices began to squeeze some buyers out of the market. Freezing temperatures and winter storms also kept prospective buyers away from open houses.

Sales have fallen 14 percent since July. □

Applications for American jobless aid rose slightly

JOSH BOAK

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) —

The number of people seeking U.S. unemployment benefits rose 5,000 last week to a seasonally adjusted 320,000, which is close to pre-recession levels and suggests a stable job market.

The four-week average of applications, a less volatile figure, fell 3,500 to 327,000, the lowest since late November, the Labor Department said Thursday.

Applications are a rough proxy for layoffs. Their cur-

rent pace suggests that companies are confident enough about economic growth to keep their staff levels.

About 3.35 million people received unemployment benefits as of March 1, the latest figures available. That's about 101,000 fewer than the previous week.

Jobless claims at their current levels are historically consistent with monthly job growth or roughly 200,000, said Joshua Shapiro, chief U.S. economist at MFR.

Hiring accelerated in February after two months of

meager jobs gains. Cold winter weather in January and December limited consumer spending, home buying, and, consequently, economic growth. Employers added 175,000 jobs last month, up from 129,000 in January and close to the monthly average of the past two years, the Labor Department reported recently.

The unemployment rate rose to 6.7 percent. But the tenth of a percentage point increase happened, in part, for a positive reason: more people began

looking for work and entered the job market.

Employers didn't immediately hire most of them, causing the unemployment rate to increase. But the fact that they started job hunting suggests they were optimistic about their prospects.

Employers advertised more jobs in January, a separate government report said earlier this week, suggesting that hiring will likely remain steady in the coming months.

The weather did force about 6 million people with

full-time jobs to work part-time in February. Many of their paychecks will shrink, likely weighing on spending.

That has contributed to economists forecasting that economic growth will be at an annual rate of 2 percent or less in the first three months of this year, down from 2.4 percent in the final three months of last year.

But as the weather improves, most analysts expect growth to rebound to an annual rate near 3 percent. □

Big cable deal: Service go from bad to worse?

FRAZIER MOORE

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — The herky-jerkiness of my Netflix video stream is nothing compared with my jittery nerves.

plans to swallow titanic runner-up Time Warner Cable.

This, of course, is the \$45 billion deal that would give Comcast 30 million subscribers in 43 of the na-

by this buyout, I feel even more Lilliputian than before.

I'm not alone in my misgivings. News of the buyout has sparked hand-wringing from consumer activ-

worse service and stifled competition.

The news also breathed life into the broader concern of Net neutrality, which holds that Internet providers should treat all content on the digital superhighway equally, regardless of originating website, rather than direct some of that traffic to express lanes — in exchange for a toll.

In January, a federal appeals court overturned Federal Communications Commission regulations enforcing Net neutrality, which raised fears this would embolden Internet providers to routinely impose a surcharge for guarantees that websites run at optimal speed — or, in the words of one critic, give a green light to “payola Internet.”

Not gonna happen at Comcast, according to its CEO, Brian Roberts, who said it will continue to uphold Net neutrality, at least through 2018, under government conditions tied to its purchase of NBCUniversal in 2011.

The combined Comcast and Time Warner Cable would be “pro-consumer and pro-competitive,” Roberts declared.

Is it crazy to be skeptical? Are opponents of the merger just a bunch of nervous Nellies?

I must admit, I'm not reassured by Comcast's promises of a future with “a superior video experience, higher broadband speeds and the fastest in-home Wi-Fi.”

Still, why should I expect this merger to make the situation worse?

I'm a long-suffering captive of Time Warner Cable for both my cable and broadband service.

Watching Netflix and Amazon programming, I notice how, too often, my so-called streaming video has all the smoothness of oatmeal left on the stove. With my hobbled “House of Cards” experiences, plus my Internet service going dark without notice, my cable box crashing and other complaints, why shouldn't I assume that anything would be an

improvement once my account was taken under the wing of the bigger, better Comcast that Roberts is promising?

Fellow detractors cite lots of reasons why.

As a souped-up cable gatekeeper, the new Comcast would have even greater bargaining power over channels it includes in its lineup, potentially favoring its own networks (which include USA, Bravo, MSNBC, E! and, of course, NBC), as well as its own content (the TV shows and movies produced by NBCUniversal studios), while independent programmers and rival cable networks might face an even greater squeeze getting distribution on Comcast, whose market dominance could determine which programs and networks live or die.

Meanwhile, Comcast would command one-third of the broadband pipes delivering the nation's information and culture.

Sen. Al Franken (D-Minn.), a leading defender of Net neutrality, blasted the proposed deal last week on “CBS This Morning,” saying, “Consumers will end up paying more, there will be less competition, there will be less innovation and even worse service.”

“At the end of the day, this merger is probably going to go through?” anchor Norah O'Donnell posed.

“I think there's a too-cozy relationship between Comcast and the regulators,” Franken responded.

Count Bob Garfield as another outspoken resister. A media commentator and a co-host of public radio's “On the Media,” Garfield several years ago launched a Web forum called Comcast Must Die for aggrieved Comcast customers like himself.

“It was an experiment in the crowdsourcing of rage,” he says, adding that it helped prod Comcast into modest improvements.

Garfield has since moved on from that initiative. But he got exercised anew by the current Comcast proposal. □



Comcast Corp. CEO Brian Roberts speaks during The Cable Show convention in Washington. Comcast, the nation's biggest cable colossus, is swallowing runner-up titan Time Warner Cable. This \$45 billion deal would give Comcast 30 million subscribers in 43 of the nation's top 50 markets and about 30 percent of pay TV customers.
(AP Photo/Susan Walsh)

I've been fretting since news broke last month that Comcast, the nation's reigning cable colossus,

tion's top 50 markets and about 30 percent of pay TV customers. As a customer potentially affected

ists and media analysts who worry that the pairing of these companies would lead to higher prices,



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Venezuela's Maduro moves swiftly against opposition

**ANDREA RODRIGUEZ
FABIOLA SANCHEZ
Associated Press
CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)**

— Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro has used the military, legislative and judicial power consolidated during 15 years of socialist rule in a sudden series of blows against opponents who have spent more than a month protesting in the streets, knocking down their barricades and throwing dissident leaders in jail.

Thursday dawned with two more opposition politicians behind bars, one of them sentenced to more than 10 months in prison. And pro-government lawmakers had already started trying to jail another outspoken critic as well, moving to strip an opposition congresswoman of her legislative immunity from prosecution. Maduro has been warning his rivals for weeks that they could soon meet the same fate as opposition hardliner Leopoldo Lopez, who was jailed on charges related to the Feb. 12 protests that initiated the wave of unrest, which has so far led to at least 28 deaths, most of them after Lopez was arrested.

San Diego Mayor Enzo Scarano was removed from his post by the Supreme Court, arrested and on the same day sent to begin a 10 1/2-month prison term for failing to heed a court order to have protesters' barricades removed from the streets of his city.

San Cristobal Mayor Daniel Ceballos was arrested as well on charges of rebellion and conspiracy.

Maduro said in a speech last month that Ceballos would soon join Lopez in prison for fomenting violence. "It's a matter of time until we have him in the

same cold cell," Maduro said.

Maduro said Thursday in a lengthy speech to ruling party officials that the government would continue looking to identify and "neutralize" the country's enemies.

"Neofacism must be eradi-

Maduro's mentor and predecessor, Hugo Chavez, also picked off rivals one by one in previous political crises, but rarely if ever over such a short period of time. Luis Vicente Leon, president of Caracas-based polling company Datanalisis, said the government's recent

anyone even demonstrating peacefully could face danger.

Maduro's rivals said they would not be bullied into submission, vowing new marches.

Two-time opposition presidential candidate and Miranda state Governor

branches that were acting "to protect the right of the majority and not to protect the right of a small group that under the excuse of protesting wants to muddle the lives of Venezuelans."

San Cristobal, where the wave of protests began, is being run by an unelected



A protester wearing a Guy Fawkes mask throws a glass bottle at Bolivarian National Police in Caracas, Venezuela, Thursday, March 20, 2014. Thursday dawned with two more opposition politicians, San Cristobal Mayor Daniel Ceballos and San Diego Mayor Enzo Scarano, behind bars. Police used tear gas and water cannons to disperse a student-called protest of several thousand people in Caracas, some of those demonstrating against the arrests of the mayors.

(AP Photo/Esteban Felix)

cated with laws, with the constitution, with consciousness, with values," he said.

The federal government itself moved in this week to clear out the plaza at the heart of the demonstrations against inflation, shortages, crime and perceived official intolerance, sending national guardsmen to take over Plaza Altamira in the capital.

moves were a step toward radicalizing the country's political process.

"Without a doubt (Maduro) has perceived that the protests are not going to stop so it's best to simply confront them and deal with them harshly," Leon said, adding that the opposition will likely find less room to maneuver because the government seeks to create a sense of fear that

Henrique Capriles said through his Twitter account Thursday that Maduro had "thrown gasoline on the fire."

"He and only he will be responsible for the situation that unfolds in the country," Capriles wrote.

Interior Minister Miguel Rodriguez Torres on Thursday distanced federal authorities from the arrests, saying it was other government

official who had been serving as a city administrator, one of Ceballos' top aides, Ronni Pavolini, told The Associated Press.

Ceballos, a member of Lopez's Popular Will party, had been outspoken in denouncing the harshness with which government security forces attacked the demonstrations in his city near Venezuela's western border with Colombia. □

Michelle Obama to avoid politics on Beijing visit

DIDI TANG

Associated Press

BEIJING (AP) — First lady Michelle Obama plans to avoid politics and focus on education and people-to-people contacts on her first visit to China.

Mrs. Obama's schedule includes a speech to Chinese and American students at Peking University and visits to the cities of Xi'an in the west and Chengdu in the southwest. On Friday, she is to spend the day with Peng Liyuan, the wife of Chinese President Xi Jinping.

She arrived Thursday, traveling with her mother and two daughters on the seven-day, three-city visit.

"I think this is a very good opportunity to improve the China-U.S. relations, as the first lady can represent the soft side of diplomacy," said Wang Dong, a political scientist at Peking University's School of International Studies.

"Michelle Obama herself has been accomplished in areas such as women's rights, children issues and education, and I think members of the Chinese public are anticipating

her visit with a positive attitude," Wang said.

The first lady intends to avoid contentious issues such as human rights, trade and cybersecurity, according to White House officials preparing the trip.

They said she will use her personal stories to express American values. On Tuesday, she is to visit a high school in Chengdu.

"Her focus on people-to-people relations, her focus on education and youth empowerment is one that we believe will resonate in China," Ben Rhodes, a deputy national security adviser, told reporters ahead of the visit. "We also believe it's a message that is really fundamentally in the interest of the United States."

The first lady and her family also are to visit the imperial palace and Great Wall in Beijing. While in Xi'an, she plans to visit ancient city walls and the Terra Cotta Warriors Museum. In Chengdu, she plans to visit a panda conservation center.

The trip provides an opportunity for President Barack



U.S. First Lady Michelle Obama, front left, her daughters Sasha, front right, Malia, right in the back, and Michelle Obama's mother Marian Robinson, left in the back, arrive at Capital International Airport in Beijing, China, Thursday, March 20, 2014. Michelle Obama has arrived in Beijing with her mother and daughters to kick off a seven-day, three-city tour where she will focus on education and cultural exchange.

(AP Photo/Alexander F. Yuan)

Obama and Chinese President Xi Jinping to cultivate a personal relationship through their wives following their meeting in Sunnylands in California last year, Wang said.

"Such a personal relationship with mutual trust is crucial, as the China-U.S. relationship has entered a more challenging phase," Wang said.

Peng, Xi's wife, accompa-

nied her husband on the Sunnylands visit but did not meet Mrs. Obama, who stayed in Washington. Her absence left some Chinese grumbling and the visit allows the first lady to make up for it.

"I think this provides a natural reason to stay engaged" before Xi and Obama meet again, Wang said.

The trip also gives Peng

unusual prominence in a Chinese official culture that usually keeps leaders' spouses in the background. Peng, a popular folk singer, was better known than Xi before he became Communist Party leader and president.

"She has a good presence on television," said Willy Lam, a political analyst at the Chinese University of Hong Kong. □

Nigeria militant attack death toll over 500

ADAM NOSSITER

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DAKAR, Senegal - Well over 500 people were killed in Nigeria last week when security forces responded to what the military portrayed as a jailbreak attempt by the Islamist group Boko Haram, making it one of the bloodiest episodes yet in the military's five-year counterinsurgency campaign, according to officials in the northern town of Maiduguri.

As inmates streamed last Friday through the opened gates of Giwa Barracks, a notorious military detention center in Maiduguri, a military plane fired on them while soldiers on the ground also opened fire, killing scores, a senior hospital official in Maiduguri said.

"The aircraft opened fire from the sky," he said. "The aircraft picked them easily from up top."

Other officials in Maiduguri corroborated his account and went further, asserting that the overwhelming majority of those killed were detainees imprisoned on flimsy or no charges - and not proven insurgents, as claimed by the military.

The episode was reported last week but far lower death tolls were given in most accounts, with the Nigerian military announcing only that there was "heavy human casualty on the terrorists" who it said had attacked the prison.

The accounts given this week cast doubt on that narrative. The hospital official said he had later counted over 500 corpses. "As they bring them we count; we load them into the vehicles for mass burials," the official said, requesting anonymity for fear of retribution from the Nigerian army.

Before Friday's killings, Giwa

had been a target of sharp criticism directed at the Nigerian military, with human rights groups, citizens and civilian officials saying the detention center was crammed with hundreds of innocent young men rounded up in the military's random sweeps in Maiduguri, the heart of the Boko Haram insurgency.

But after the massacre last Friday, "Giwa Barracks has been devastated. Destroyed," said Maikaramba Saddiq of Nigeria's Civil Liberties Organization.

Two other senior officials in northern Nigeria, as well as Saddiq, confirmed the elevated death toll, with several saying it could rise to 1,000.

The officials in Maiduguri said this week that most of those killed were detainees at Giwa Barracks who fled when the gates were unexpectedly opened early Friday morning. □



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UN agency in Haiti distributes drought relief

TRENTON DANIEL
Associated Press

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP)

— Aid workers in Haiti have begun distributing food to help some of the Caribbean nation's poorest people cope with a severe drought, an official with a United Nations agency said Thursday.

The World Food Program on Wednesday began handing out cereal, vegetable oil and iodized salt to 10,000 people in towns in the northwestern peninsula of Haiti, WFP program chief Antoine Renard said. Aid workers hope to reach 164,000 people with food by the end of the month, when the rainy season is due to begin. The goal is to hand out enough food to last at least a month so that farmers won't be forced to eat their seeds, which would sabotage their ability to grow crops.

The Famine Early Warning Systems Network, a U.S.-government financed program that tracks weather patterns, agricultural production and food prices in an effort to offset famine, describes worrisome conditions for Haiti's northwest. Rains ended earlier than usual in October in the northwest and elsewhere along the northern coast, leading to the loss of sorghum, bean and corn crops. □

EU reaches solid deal on banking union

DAVID McHUGH
RAF CASERT
Associated Press

BRUSSELS (AP) — The European Union has put in place the last building block of its banking union, a new system that aims to centralize oversight of banks and protect taxpayers from the cost of bailing them out.

After all-night negotiations lasting into Thursday, the EU's member states and the bloc's parliament broke a deadlock on how to set up a joint authority that can restructure or shut down failing banks.

The authority is a key part of banking union, a set of institutions and rules that hopes to keep any future bank failures from overwhelming an individual country's public finances. The costs of bank rescues bankrupted Ireland in 2010, and other governments have shoveled billions into rescuing banks.

"This will strengthen confidence and stability in the financial markets and help restore lending to the economy," said EU Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso.

The banking union is a response to the eurozone's troubles over government debt that began in 2009 and peaked in 2012. It's aimed more at preventing another crisis than at cleaning up the one just past.

The first part of the union is about supervision — taking regulation away from na-

tional supervisors, deemed to have been too lenient on their banks, and putting it at the EU level, under the aegis of the European Central Bank.

The second pillar is about setting up a fund that has the power to rescue or shut down banks. A deal on this fund, called the single

structured, sold or closed down.

Bank shareholders and creditors would be asked to take losses before taxpayers. Beyond that, the fund will have 55 billion euros (\$76 billion) to put into banks, if needed. The money will be raised from levies on banks.

The original proposals had a third pillar, Europe-wide deposit insurance. But that idea has stalled.

The European parliament had objected to a version agreed by governments in December. That version, deputies said, allowed for national governments and regulators to play too big a



European Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso, second left, speaks with European Council President Herman Van Rompuy, second right, prior to a tri-partite social summit meeting ahead of an EU summit in Brussels on Thursday, March 20, 2014.

(AP Photo/Virginia Mayo)

resolution mechanism, had been the most difficult to reach because countries disagreed on how quickly the fund would raise money and on how decisions on banks would be made. The two pillars would work together.

Once the ECB says a bank is failing, the fund would be able to order the bank re-

Once the system agreed on Thursday is in place, "no European taxpayer will ever have to pay for bankers' bad decisions again," said Hannes Swoboda, the leader of the parliament's socialist group.

Thursday's result is a compromise that differs from the original banking union idea put forward in 2012.

role in deciding what to do with a bank — undermining the basic idea of banking "union."

The deputies said they won changes to lessen the role of national officials. The fund will also be filled faster — over 8 years, not 10 — and national contributions will be mingled into a common pot more quickly. □

Lawyer:

Pistorius plans to sell house to cover legal costs



Oscar Pistorius sits in the dock as he waits for proceedings to begin at a court in Pretoria, South Africa. Pistorius is on trial for the murder of his girlfriend Reeva Steenkamp on Valentine's Day, 2013. (AP Photo/Werner Beukes)

© 2014 New York Times

Facing the need to raise money for legal fees as he stands trial for the murder of his girlfriend, Oscar Pistorius, the double-amputee track star, plans to sell the house where he admits shooting her, a lawyer said on his behalf Thursday.

Pistorius, 27, has said he shot his girlfriend, Reeva Steenkamp, in a tragic error, mistaking her for an intruder locked inside a bathroom in his house in Pretoria, South Africa. But prosecutors

have accused him of premeditated murder, a crime that carries a minimum 25-year prison term on conviction in South Africa, which does not have the death penalty. The hearings have been broadcast live around the world. Brian Webber, the lawyer, said it had "become necessary" to sell the luxurious villa, in a gated complex in Pretoria, the South African capital, because the trial was expected to last longer than the three weeks

initially scheduled. Pistorius never returned to the house after the shooting in the early hours of Feb. 14, 2013, and "cannot contemplate ever returning to live there again," Webber said. Free on bail, Pistorius has been living with relatives since the shooting. News reports said the trial might be costing Pistorius about \$9,000 a day. He had initially planned to keep the house sealed until the trial was over, but "he has been forced to re-

visit this decision," Webber said in a statement issued, the lawyer said, to head off media speculation. The trial opened March 3. Since then, a replica of the cubicle where Steenkamp, 29, was killed has been erected in the courtroom, enabling forensic experts and other prosecution witnesses to show how they believe events unfolded. Much testimony has revolved around the moment when Pistorius, who was born without fibula bones and whose legs were both amputated below the knee in infancy, opened fire and then smashed open the door with a cricket bat after realizing, by his account, that he had shot Steenkamp. Prosecutors have said they expect to wrap up their case early next week after the trial resumes Monday. While Pistorius was a national hero for his track achievements at both the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games in London in 2012, the prosecution has sought to depict him as a quick-tempered man with a fascination for firearms and a history of handling them. □

Caribbean Briefs

Barbados to build 'waste to energy' plant

KINGSTON, Jamaica (AP) — A Guernsey-based company has signed an agreement with Barbados to build and operate a proposed waste-to-energy plant that could eventually provide as much as 25 percent of the Caribbean island's power. Cahill Energy says it expects to invest \$240 million in the facility planned for the central parish of St. Thomas. The plant is expected to create up to 650 jobs while providing the island with some energy security. In a company statement, Barbados Environment Minister Denis Lowe said the project would reduce the island's "massive oil import bill." Barbados has said it plans to replace 29 percent of its oil-based power with alternative and renewable energy by 2029. Punishing electricity costs and a lack of energy security are major concerns in the Caribbean.

Trinidad panel: C-section death to be probed

PORT-OF-SPAIN, Trinidad (AP) — Trinidad & Tobago has appointed a fact-finding panel to investigate the death of a newborn who died after being severely injured during a caesarian section. The baby boy died hours after part of his scalp was sliced during a March 1 delivery at Trinidad's Mount Hope Women's Hospital. Officials say a preliminary autopsy found evidence of a penetrating injury to the newborn's brain. Surgeon Dr. Javed Chinnia has been suspended pending the outcome of the probe by the three-member panel. The death has dominated headlines in the twin-island Caribbean country, where there have long been numerous allegations of negligence in the public health care system. □

Bahamas:

Lawyer says death of US man was accident

ALISON LOWE
Associated Press

NASSAU, Bahamas (AP)

— Two U.S. men charged in the death of another American citizen on the island of Bimini were expected to leave the Bahamas this week after posting bail, their attorney said, portraying the incident as a tragic accident.

Tyler Valles and Robert Schwartz, both members of a sport fishing crew on a boat that had stopped in Bimini, were to be released on \$35,000 bail each after agreeing to return to the country for a hearing in May, attorney Wayne Munroe said. The men were charged earlier this week with manslaughter but did not enter a plea.

Munroe, a prominent crimi-

nal defense attorney in the Bahamas, described the men as shocked by their situation and still trying to piece together the confusing series of events that led to the death of Carl Yerger, a 45-year-old businessman from Ruscombmanor Township, Pennsylvania.

"Everyone, of course, is replaying the matter in their heads," Munroe said in an interview.

The men were arrested following the discovery Friday of the body of Yerger at a marina and resort on Bimini, a Bahamian island about 50 miles east of Florida that is a sport fishing and diving destination.

Asst. Commissioner Emrick Seymour of the Royal Bahamas Police Force had said the men fought when

Yerger tried to board their vessel.

Yerger owned a milling and consulting business in Pennsylvania and was reportedly in Bimini on a business trip. He had two young sons and led the Oley Valley Youth League, a sports association in his community. Munroe said that prosecutors believe Yerger was intoxicated when he tried to get onto the boat late at night and was removed by the captain and Valles, a 19-year-old from Key Largo, Florida.

After several attempts by Yerger to get on board, Valles went to get help from the resort's security. As he left, he picked up a filleting knife off the dock to keep it away from Yerger, Munroe said, citing the

prosecution's account.

The attorney said that Yerger "attacked" Valles and that Schwartz, a 62-year-old from Gaylordsville, Connecticut jumped in to help. All three struggled on the ground, at which point Yerger was accidentally stabbed.

At the time, apparently no one had noticed that Yerger had been stabbed and they all thought the incident was over. Now injured, Yerger got up and walked back to the resort and the other two men went back to the boat, the lawyer said.

The court set a hearing date for May 19 for the formal presentation of the indictment. Munroe said a trial would likely be more than a year away. □



Loyal Visitors to Aruba honored at the Renaissance Suites!

ORANJESTAD - Recently, the following guests were honored as Distinguished Visitors and Goodwill Ambassadors for the island of Aruba at the Renaissance Suites: Barbara Allen, Donna & Barton Eckert, Paul & Phyllis Berger and Tom & Katie Donovan.

The symbolic honorary titles are presented in the name of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guests who visit Aruba for 10+ and 20+ years consecutive. Ms. Marouska Heyliger representing Aruba Tourism Authority conducted the ceremony at the Renaissance Suites. Top reasons for returning provided by the honorees were Aruba's great weather and friendly hospitality. On the picture: All honorees together with Linda Brokke of the Renaissance. □



Theo and Diny van den Berg honored at the Perle D'or



NOORD - Recently the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure of honoring a very nice couple, whom are loyal and friendly Visitors of Aruba, at the Perle D'or Pam Pam Restaurant as Distinguished Visitors. The symbolic honorary title is presented in the name of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guests who visit Aruba for 10-to-19 consecutive years.

The honorees were Mr. Theo and Mrs. Diny van den Berg from Nijmegen Neth-

erlands. Theo and Diny love Aruba very much because of the friendly people, the climate, beaches, restaurants, shopping and being on Aruba is like being home for them. The van den Bergs have many local friends on the Island whom they meet every time they visit Aruba and one of their best friends is Ms. Annemarie Verblackt. The certificates were presented by Mr. Ernest Giel representing the Aruba Tourism Authority together with a group of friends of Theo and Diny. □



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arrival grocery shopping,
the request for an In-house
chef, server, bartender or
butler, personal laundry, in-
house massage, a person-
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and babysitting services.
Marketing efforts of the
Gold Coast residential
community were also en-
hanced with the recent
launch of a brand new
website: www.arubarentalsvacation.com.
Functionalities of this new web-
site include a chat room
where guests can imme-
diately reach out with
their questions to a Front

Office staff member of
Gold Coast. The website
also features an easy-to-
use booking engine for di-
rect bookings of the Gold
Coast condos, townhouses
and spacious villas.

Lastly, Gold Coast shares
its results of the third quar-
ter of 2013. Compared to
the same time last year re-
sults show a 200% increase
in rental business of their
condos, townhouses and
villas. In addition the occu-
pancy at the rental homes
in this residential commu-
nity also increased by 200%
compared to the third
quarter of 2012. Construc-
tion activities are still ongo-
ing at Gold Coast and it is
to be expected that their
magnificent growth will be
doubled again next year.
Future expansion includes
the construction of a Gold
Coast Clubhouse. This
multi-purpose Clubhouse
will feature 2 tennis courts
and large community
pool, a convenience store,
business center, restaurant,
Spa and state of the art
Fitness Center. The Gold
Coast Clubhouse is to be
completed in 2014. □

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David Elsbree & Lorraine Gilmore honored at the Marriott Surf Club

PALM BEACH - Recently, David Elsbree & Lorraine Gilmore were honored as Distinguished Visitors after returning to Aruba for 10 consecutive years. The symbolic honorary title is presented in the name of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guests who visit Aruba for 10-to-19 years consecutive. Mr. Ricardo Croes representing Aruba Tourism Authority conducted the ceremony at the Marriott Surf Club.

Mrs. Lorraine commented that she will never change her vacation island for any other island. Top reason for returning provided by the honorees were they consider Aruba to be the "Happy Island", the great weather, and friendly Aruban hospitality, white sand beaches and the local food. On the pictures Mr. Croes from ATA together with David & Lorraine and hotel Rep. Jenny Boekhoudt at the Marriott Surf Club. □





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Scott off to a record start at Bay Hill

DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

ORLANDO, Florida (AP) —

Masters champion Adam Scott was feeling ill when he arrived at Bay Hill. One majestic round with the putter made him feel a lot better on Thursday.

Scott made five putts from about 20 feet or longer, two of them for eagle and one of them from off the green for birdie, and matched the course record with a 10-under 62 to build a four-shot lead in the Arnold Palmer Invitational. The conditions were close to perfect. So was his work on the greens.

"I made a lot of putts today, and a lot of putts from considerable length," Scott said. "I hit a lot of nice shots, too, but it wasn't like I was hitting it 4 feet. I had a round like this in Australia at the end of last year — in the first six holes, I didn't hit it outside 5 feet. There's a lot of different ways to get the ball in the hole. But it's good for the confidence. It's what I wanted. I sat in here yesterday and said I'd like to make some birdies and build the confidence.



And today is a good start to that."

Ryo Ishikawa, who uses Bay Hill as his home course on the East Coast, birdied the 18th for a 67. John Merrick celebrated his 32nd birthday by reaching 8 under until a late bogey. He also shot 67.

Both were 10 shots behind before they hit their first shot of the tournament.

"That took the pressure off," Merrick said. "You're already 10 shots behind, so it's not like you're protecting anything. But this isn't the Bay Hill I remember. I don't usually play golf in Florida without 20 mph wind."

Gonzalo Fernandez-Castano had his best round of the year with a 66. Brandt Snedeker and Paul Casey were among those at 67.

Continued on Page 20

Adam Scott, of Australia, reacts after making an eagle putt on the 16th hole during the first round of the Arnold Palmer Invitational golf tournament at Bay Hill Thursday, March 20, 2014, in Orlando, Fla.

Associated Press

Park, Piller share early lead in Founders Cup

JOHN NICHOLSON

Associated Press

PHOENIX (AP) — Top-ranked Inbee Park birdied her final three holes for a 6-under 66 and a share of the JTBC Founders Cup lead among the early starters on Thursday.

Coming off a victory two weeks ago in China in a Ladies European Tour event, Park closed with a tap-in birdie on the par-4 ninth after nearly holing a pitching wedge from 134 yards at Desert Ridge's Wildfire Golf Club.

"It was a very solid round,"

Park said. "Very good irons today."

Morgan Pressel was 7 under after eight holes in her afternoon round in perfect conditions. She played her first six holes in 6 under, birdieing Nos. 10-13 and making an eagle on the par-5 15th, and also birdied the par-3 17th.

Defending champion Stacy Lewis, second-ranked Suzann Pettersen, 2011 winner Karrie Webb and Michelle Wie also played in the afternoon.

Gerina Piller matched Park with a 66. She has two top-

10 finishes in four events this season.

"The more I can get in that position, obviously the more confidence I get," Piller said. "I just keep on reminding myself that I'm good enough to be out here and I have the shots and I just need to let myself do it."

Sixteen-year-old Lydia Ko was at 67 along with Jodi Ewart Shadoff, Mo Martin and Pornanong Phatlum. Playing alongside Park, Ko closed with a bogey after driving left into the desert.

"I normally eat more than I

did today — and I normally eat a lot, so that's saying something," Ko said. "I forgot to bring my food and my protein bars. That's my excuse."

Park had six U.S. LPGA Tour victories last season, sweeping the first three majors, and became the first South Korean to win the player of the year award. She took a break after the season and skipped the first two events this year, returning with a second-place finish in Thailand and a tie for fourth in Singapore.

"I was a little bit exhausted

last year after all the things that happened," Park said. She made five of her seven birdies on her final nine holes.

"I was hitting the ball good all day, but just on the front the putts didn't seem like they wanted to go in," Park said. "I read a couple of putts wrong and, on the back nine, I had shots a lot closer than the front nine."

She three-putted the par-4 third for her lone bogey. Paula Creamer, a playoff winner three weeks ago in Singapore in the last tour event, shot 70. □

Serena Williams wins opening match at Sony Open

STEVEN WINE

AP Sports Writer

KEY BISCAYNE, Florida (AP) — Serena Williams

capitalized on a critical double-fault by Yaroslava Shvedova to survive a 69-minute first set and win her opening match at the Sony Open 7-6 (7), 6-2 on Thursday.

The top-ranked Williams seeks a record seventh Key Biscayne title.

Williams, who owns a small share of the Miami Dolphins, wore a dress in the team's orange and turquoise colors. As with the Dolphins, she found points tough to come by in the early going.

She erased a 5-3 deficit in the first set, then fell behind 6-3 in the tiebreaker. Shvedova pushed a forehand into the net, then the Kazakh hit a nervous double-fault that allowed Williams to exhale.

She won the next two points with aces, then

closed out the set with a backhand winner, a fist pump and a scream of "Yes!"

Lleyton Hewitt became the third active man to win 600 matches when he rallied past Robin Haase of the Netherlands 3-6, 6-3, 6-3 in the first round.

Hewitt joined Roger Federer (942 wins) and Rafael Nadal (675) in reaching the milestone.

"Not many people get the opportunity to get close to that, so it means I have been around for an awfully long time," the 33-year-old Hewitt said.

"I'm getting old. A few years ago when I had the last couple of surgeries, I probably would have doubted I'd get to this stage.

I'm grateful I'm out there and able to compete with the best guys."

Hewitt is a former No. 1 and a three-time Key Biscayne semifinalist.

Fellow Australian Bernard Tomic, mounting a comeback from surgery on both hips and playing for the first time since January, lost to Jarkko Nieminen of Finland 6-0, 6-1.

In women's play, No. 5-seeded Angelique Kerber of Germany won her opening match, beating Peng Shuai of China 6-3, 1-6, 7-6 (5). Kerber, a two-time Grand Slam semifinalist, matched her best showing at Key Biscayne by reaching the third round.

Ana Ivanovic beat American Lauren Davis 6-1, 6-1, and No. 8 Petra Kvitova defeated Paula Ormaechea of Argentina 6-3, 6-4. Svetlana Kuznetsova, the 2006 champion, lost to Croatian qualifier Donna Vekic 7-6 (5), 7-5.

Maria Sharapova was scheduled to play her opening match late Thursday. Seeded men begin play on Friday. □



Serena Williams, of the United States, reacts to a play against Yaroslava Shvedova, of Kazakhstan, during the Sony Open tennis tournament, Thursday, March 20, 2014, in Key Biscayne, Fla. Williams won 7-6 (7), 6-2.

Associated Press

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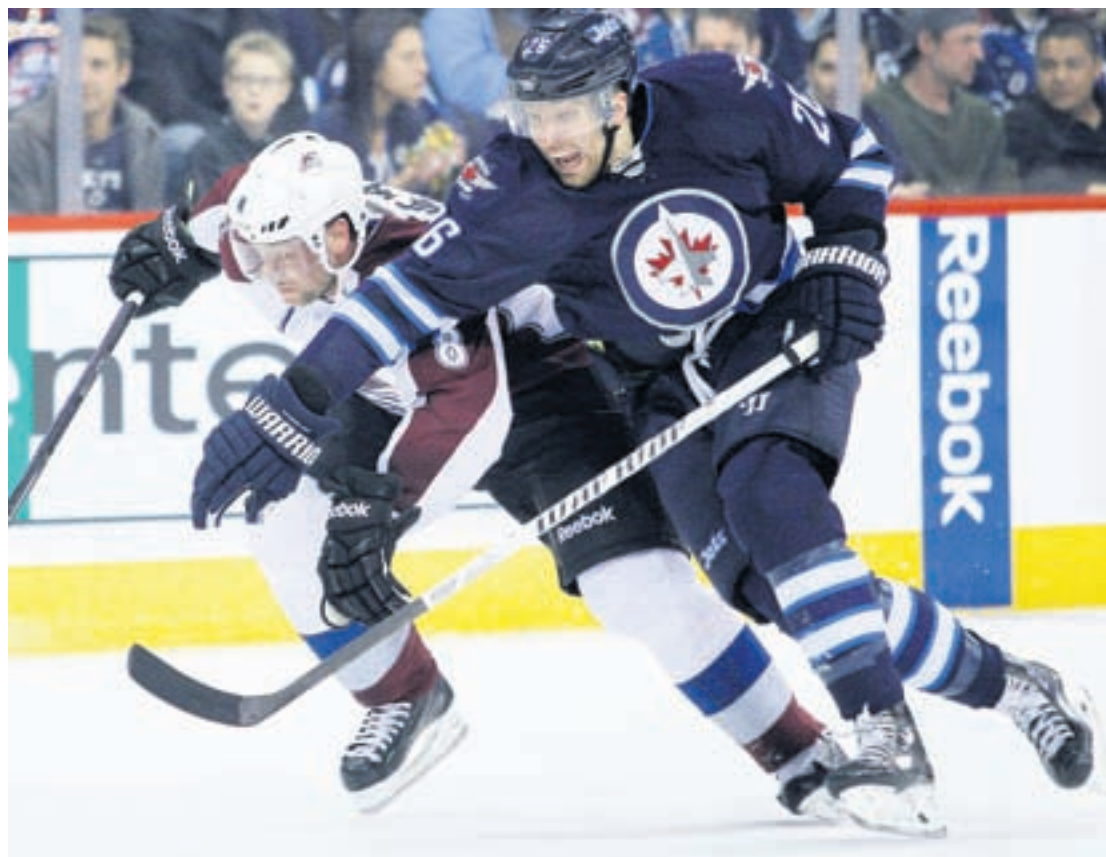
Blackhawks beat Blues 4-0 behind Crawford

CHICAGO (AP) — Corey Crawford stopped 23 shots for his second shutout this season, anchoring the Blackhawks to a physical 4-0 victory over the St. Louis Blues on Wednesday that gave Chicago coach Joel Quenneville his 700th NHL win.

It was a costly victory for the Blackhawks, though. Leading scorer Patrick Kane left the game at 7:56 of the second period, favoring his left leg as he headed to the dressing room following a collision with Brenden Morrow. Kane is expected to miss about three weeks, Quenneville said.

Duncan Keith, Andrew Shaw, Marcus Kruger and Ben Smith scored as Chicago ended the league-leading Blues' nine-game point streak (8-0-1) and dealt St. Louis its first regulation loss against a Central Division opponent this season. The Blues entered 20-0-2 against division foes and hadn't lost in regulation since a 1-0 defeat at Anaheim on Feb. 28.

Quenneville, who previously guided St. Louis and Colorado, has the most wins of any active NHL coach and ranks third all-time behind Al Arbour and Scotty Bowman, now the Blackhawks' senior adviser of hockey operations.



Winnipeg Jets' Blake Wheeler (26) attempts to get around Colorado Avalanche's Jan Hejda (8) as they drive for the puck during the second period of an NHL hockey game Wednesday, March 19, 2014, in Winnipeg, Manitoba.

Crawford earned his 10th career shutout in Chicago's first win against the Blues this season after three losses.

Kane, who has 29 goals and 40 assists in 68 games, assisted on Keith's opening goal.

St. Louis goalie Ryan Miller

lost in regulation for the first time since joining the Blues following a trade from Buffalo on Feb. 28. Miller, now 7-1-1 with St. Louis, was replaced by Brian Elliott at 7:58 of the third period after allowing four goals on 27 shots.

LIGHTNING 5, MAPLE LEAFS 3

TORONTO (AP) — Steven

Stamkos had a natural hat trick and Tampa Bay beat Toronto in a game that included a frightening injury to Maple Leafs defenseman Paul Ranger.

Ranger left the ice on a stretcher after his head hit the boards following a first-period hit from Alex Killorn. Ranger was "stable, conscious and alert," accord-

Associated Press

ing to the Maple Leafs, after being taken to the hospital for what the team called a "precautionary assessment."

Toronto announced the update on Ranger's condition on its Twitter account during the second intermission.

Killorn was given a 5-minute major penalty for boarding and a game misconduct. James Reimer gave up a goal on the first shot he faced, and the Maple Leafs lost their third straight. Stamkos, in his seventh game back after missing four months with a broken right leg, scored his three goals on three shots. Radko Gudas had Tampa Bay's first goal 59 seconds in, and Tyler Johnson added an insurance goal. Ben Bishop made 36 saves.

Phil Kessel scored his team-leading 35th of the season for Toronto. Nikolai Kulemin and Jake Gardiner also had goals for the Maple Leafs.

JETS 5, AVALANCHE 4, OT WINNIPEG, Manitoba (AP) — Blake Wheeler scored in overtime with a shot through the crowd to lift Winnipeg over Colorado.

Andrew Ladd scored twice for the injury-depleted Jets. Eric Tangradi and Evander Kane also had goals. □

Bay Hill

Continued on Page 20

They were all but forgotten with Scott's 62 on the board.

Scott walked from the ninth green across the practice range to the scoring trailer as one player after another turned his head and asked how low Scott went on the day. One caddie quipped, "Is there a 10-shot rule when you haven't teed off?"

It was the lowest round in 30 years at Bay Hill, and it was good enough to make a large gallery following Scott forget for a moment that defending champion Tiger Woods was absent because of a back injury.

Andy Bean in 1981 and Greg Norman in 1984 were the only other players with a 62 at Bay Hill.

After watching Scott make another putt — this one from 20 feet for eagle on No. 4 — U.S. Open champion Justin Rose asked if Scott could get to No. 1 if he were to win at Bay Hill. The answer: No and yes. He couldn't overtake Woods this week, but likely would go to No. 1 over the next few weeks if neither played.

Scott had reason to be mildly surprised by this round. For one thing, he had not been to Bay Hill in five years. Scott typically plays Innisbrook, but decided to mix it up. And he has some experience on the bag as Steve Williams caddied for Woods in six of



Gonzalo Fernandez-Castano, of Spain, follows the flight of his tee shot on the 18th hole during the first round of the Arnold Palmer Invitational golf tournament at Bay Hill Thursday, March 20, 2014, in Orlando, Fla.

the eight Bay Hill wins. Scott said he was also coping with flu-like symptoms. "Just a bit under the weather," he said. "I can't complain."

He is a believer in the adage, "Beware the injured golfer." He lowered his

expectations, concerned himself only with the next shot and was more concerned with his energy than feeling any nerves. It didn't take long for him to realize it was going to be a special day, starting with a 20-foot birdie putt on the

10th to start his round. He got up and down from a bunker on the par-5 12th for birdie, made a 25-foot birdie putt on the 14th, and then rolled one in from 30 feet on the 15th from a collection area right of the green.

Scott drilled a 7-iron into 35 feet on the par-5 16th and made that birdie. On the front nine, he hit a pure 3-wood into 20 feet on the par-5 fourth for birdie, and then hit a tough bunker from some 35 yards away to 8 feet for birdie on the par-5 sixth.

It was the sixth time Scott posted a 62 on the U.S. PGA Tour, the most recent at Firestone in 2011, when he won. But he didn't want to look at it as anything more than just a great start. □

Reds pitcher Chapman hit in face by line drive

ALAN ESKEW

Associated Press

SURPRISE, Arizona (AP)

— Cincinnati Reds closing pitcher Aroldis Chapman of Cuba broke bones above his left eye and nose when he was hit by a line drive Wednesday, the latest frightening injury to a pitcher struck in the head by a batted ball.

Chapman was undergoing further testing at Banner Good Samaritan Medical Center, where he was set to spend the night for observation, according to a statement from the Reds. First-year manager Bryan Price said Chapman was conscious and talking as he was taken off the field during Cincinnati's spring training game against the Kansas City Royals.

The exhibition was called after an 8-minute delay with Kansas City leading 6-3.

"Not good," Price said. "He left the field on a stretcher, took a line drive just above his left eye is what it looks like — a contusion, a laceration, and certainly needs to be taken to the hospital and checked. We've got

Tomas Vera, an assistant trainer, is going to be with him. And then we'll get our updates from there."

The hard-throwing left-hander was struck by Salvador Perez's line drive with two outs in the sixth inning — the pitch was clocked at 99 mph (159 kph). Chapman crumbled to the ground, face down, his legs flailing. The ball caromed into the third base dugout. Medical personnel, including Royals Dr. Vincent Key, rushed onto the field. Blood could be seen on the mound.

Perez put his hands on his helmet before reaching first base. He immediately went to the mound where players from both teams huddled as the 26-year-old Cuban reliever was being attended to in an eerily silent stadium. An ambulance's siren could be heard in the background while Chapman was loaded onto the stretcher.

"It was an absolute bullet that Sal hit," Royals manager Ned Yost said. "It's just a real sickening feeling for everybody."

Players from both teams

Cincinnati Reds relief pitcher Aroldis Chapman throws in the third inning of a spring training baseball game against the Cleveland Indians in Goodyear, Ariz., in this March 4, 2012 file photo.

Associated Press

kneeled, some bowing their heads and crossing themselves in prayer.

Chapman was taken to Banner Del E. Webb Medical Center in Sun City. He was then transferred to Banner Good Samaritan Medical Center.

Perez appeared to be in tears as he left the field, and first baseman Eric Hosmer hugged him. Perez quickly left the clubhouse without speaking to reporters. Hosmer hit a line drive off the head of Tampa Bay's Alex Cobb last June. Cobb sustained a concussion.

Playing right field, Reds teammate Jay Bruce heard the ball hit Chapman.

"It was one of the more frightening and non-fun moments I've been a part of on the baseball field," he said. □



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Zach Lee to start for Dodgers vs Team Australia

SYDNEY (AP) — Right-hander Zach Lee, who is 1-0 in one start with a 5.79 ERA in two games in spring training, will be the starting pitcher for the Los Angeles Dodgers on Friday against Team Australia in the first exhibition baseball game at the revamped Sydney Cricket Ground.

One of the top Dodgers prospects, the 22-year-old Lee won the team's minor league pitcher of the year award in 2013.

Ryan Searle, 24, and signed as a 17-year-old in the Chicago Cubs organization, will start for Australia.

Arizona Diamondbacks reliever and Sydney-born Ryan Rowland-Smith is ex-



Los Angeles Dodgers pitcher Zach Lee hold a piece of a broken bat during their exhibition baseball game against Team Australia at the Sydney Cricket Ground in Sydney, Thursday, March 20, 2014.

Associated Press

NBA Capsules

Knicks open Jackson era with seventh straight win

The Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Carmelo Anthony scored 34 points as the New York Knicks opened the Phil Jackson era by beating the Indiana Pacers 92-86 Wednesday for their season-high seventh straight victory.

With their new team president watching from a midcourt seat, the Knicks dominated the first half, then pulled away after the Eastern Conference leaders finally got untracked in the second half.

Fans stood to cheer Jackson in the first quarter and were on their feet again in the final minute to watch the Knicks beat the team that knocked them out of the playoffs last year.

Lance Stephenson had 21 points and nine rebounds for the Pacers, who had their four-game winning streak snapped and failed to extend their three-game lead over the Miami Heat, who lost to Boston earlier Wednesday.

CELTICS 101, HEAT 96

BOSTON (AP) — Rajon Rondo hit two running baseline shots in the last two minutes as Boston capitalized on the absence of LeBron James to beat Miami.

One night after scoring 43 points in a 100-96 win over the Cleveland Cavaliers, James sat out the game with back spasms and the Heat lost for the first time in their three games without him this season.

Rondo finished with nine points, 15 assists and 10 rebounds as Boston stopped a five-game losing streak. Avery Bradley led Boston with 23 points and had career highs of six 3-point baskets and nine 3-point attempts. Brandon Bass added 18 points.

The Heat, which had won their previous two games after losing five of six, were led by Wade with 17 points, Chris Andersen with 16 and Ray Allen and Udonis Haslem with 14 each.

BULLS 102, 76ERS 94

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — D.J. Augustin scored 20 points, and Taj Gibson had 19 points and 13 rebounds as Chicago handed Philadelphia its 22nd straight loss.

The Sixers are four losses shy of matching the NBA record for longest-single season losing streak.

The Cleveland Cavaliers set the record of 26 consecutive losses in the 2010-11 season. The Vancouver



New York Knicks' Carmelo Anthony, left, pushes up against Indiana Pacers' Paul George during the first half of an NBA basketball game at Madison Square Garden Wednesday, March 19, 2014, in New York. The Knicks defeated the Pacers 92-86.

Associated Press

Grizzlies (1995-96), Denver Nuggets (1997-98) and Charlotte Bobcats (2011-12) each lost 23 straight.

The Sixers also lost their 17th straight home game since beating Charlotte on Jan.

15.

Thaddeus Young scored 24 points for the Sixers and Tony Wroten had 17.

SPURS 125, LAKERS 109

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Tony Parker scored 25 points,

and Kawhi Leonard added 22 points and 10 rebounds as San Antonio pulled away from Los Angeles for its 11th consecutive victory. Danny Green scored 16 points and Tim Duncan had 12 points and 16 rebounds for the NBA-leading Spurs, who haven't lost since Feb. 21 while winning 14 of 15.

With their seventh straight victory over the Lakers dating to last season's playoffs, the Spurs opened a 1½-game lead over Indiana for the league's best record. San Antonio leads Oklahoma City by two games atop the Western Conference.

Pau Gasol had 22 points, 10 rebounds and six assists for Los Angeles. Xavier Henry scored 24 points in the Lakers' sixth loss in seven games.

Los Angeles has lost 20 of 26.

NETS 104, BOBCATS 99

NEW YORK (AP) — Deron Williams scored 23 points and Joe Johnson added 20 as Brooklyn overcame a late deficit to win its 10th straight at home.

Williams scored 11 of his points in the final six minutes. □



Undefeated world heavyweight boxing champion Wladimir Klitschko, of Ukraine, speaks about the political situation in Ukraine during a news conference at the Lucky Street Boxing Gym, Thursday, March 20, 2014, in Hollywood, Fla. Klitschko is preparing for his upcoming fight April 26 against Alex Leapai in Germany. The Ukrainian flag is in the background.

Associated Press

HOLLYWOOD, Florida (AP)

— Heavyweight champion Wladimir Klitschko delivered a message to Russia President Vladimir Putin on Thursday, saying it's important not to "repeat the mistakes of history" concern-

ing the crisis in his native Ukraine.

Klitschko, the brother of opposition leader Vitali Klitschko, is training in Florida for the defence of his WBA and IBF titles in April. He sat before a Ukrainian

Klitschko: Try not to 'repeat mistakes of history'

flag at a news conference, wearing a white T-shirt with his country's name and logo.

"You cannot repeat the mistakes of history, and there were a lot of mistakes," Klitschko said when asked about his message to Putin.

Klitschko said he feels sadness about the months of protests and sporadic violence in his country, and his "mind is over there, my body is here."

Russian forces effectively took control of Crimea about two weeks ago after the ouster of Ukraine's pro-Russia president, Viktor Yanukovich. Klitschko's brother gave up boxing to run for president in Ukraine, where elections are sched-

uled for May 25.

"He's representing me in a certain way over there and I'm representing him in a certain way over here," said Klitschko, who speaks with his brother daily. "But I know, as Nelson Mandela said, 'Sport has the power to change the world.' And I believe in that very strongly."

Klitschko stressed there was only one path to peace.

"There is, by no means, no way, a military solution," he said. "It's all about diplomacy and good politics because nobody can return the lost loves."

"I just hope with all the international presence and awareness, certain steps from the political and diplomatic side will put the le-

gal question into place."

Klitschko, who turns 38 on Tuesday, spoke following a workout for the April 26 title bout with Alex Leapai in Germany. He plans to travel to Austria on Saturday for more training and return to Ukraine after the fight.

He said his athletic career helps him deal with the crisis in his homeland.

"It's disappointment, it's anger, it's being worried. It's a combination of all, you can imagine," he said. "There's a lot of emotions, but I understand. It's like in a boxing match, if you get too emotional, you're definitely going to produce mistakes that are eventually going to cause more damage." □

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A heads-on look at Sony's virtual reality goggles

DERRIK J. LANG**AP Entertainment Writer****SAN FRANCISCO (AP)** — The promise of virtual reality in the living room is coming closer to, well, reality.

Sony unveiled a prototype headset this week capable of surrounding a wearer's vision with interactive virtual worlds. The system, codenamed Project Morpheus, utilizes a 1080p head-mounted display with head-tracking capabilities and works in concert with the PlayStation 4 console to display imagery on the headset's screen, providing a 90-degree field of view.

During a private demonstration of Project Morpheus to The Associated Press at the Game Developers Conference, the headset felt secure thanks to a sturdy yet comfortable halo-like ring that snaps into place around the head. There's a wheel positioned on the back headband that can be turned for an even tighter fit.

It's lighter than one might expect and certainly sleeker than the Oculus Rift, a similar VR headset that's captured game makers' imaginations over the past two years but has yet to be released. A long, thick cable that pokes from the side of the visor, as well as dangling headphone cords, prove cumbersome during physical movement while wearing the goggles.

A closer look at four of the interactive experiences — not actual full-fledged games — Sony was using to demonstrate Project Morpheus at GDC:

"The Deep": This demo created specifically for Project Morpheus by Sony's London studio cast a standing user in the role of deep sea diver — complete with virtual wet suit and flare gun — inside a shark cage that submerges into the depths of the ocean. The undersea encounter is interrupted by a great white who attacks the enclosure at the first whiff of blood. With lush graphics and stereoscopic 3-D audio, "The Deep" showcased how Project Morpheus could recreate frantic "Jaws"-like moments as the shark

ominously circled the cage. However, it wasn't completely immersive because Project Morpheus only tracked movement of the head and DualShock 4 controller, so fin flipping wasn't translated to the feet on screen.

"EVE: Valkyrie": Developed by CCP Games and set in their "EVE" universe, "Valkyrie" is a sci-fi multiplayer dogfighter pitting players

while simultaneously blasting other users compellingly simulated what it might be like to really pilot an X-Wing from "Star Wars."

NASA Mars Project: The technology demo created in tandem with NASA utilized high-resolution images captured by both satellites and the Curiosity rover to transport a user to the surface of Mars. The rover itself also made an inter-

game capabilities of Project Morpheus.

"The Castle": This combat-centric game demo dispatched users to a cartoony medieval training ground where they could totally abuse a dummy in a suit of armor. When armed with a pair of gesture-detecting PlayStation Move controllers in each hand, "The Castle" depicted gauntlets on

Marcus Ingvarsson, right, tests out the PlayStation 4 virtual reality headset Project Morpheus in a demo area at the Game Developers Conference 2014 in San Francisco, Wednesday, March 19, 2014.
Associated Press

against each other in the cockpits of galactic fighter jets. Project Morpheus' version featured richer graphics and details, like a massive carrier in the distance of the star field battleground, than the one demoed over at Oculus Rift's booth.

Playing in a seated position with a DualShock 4 controller in hand that acts as the spaceship's yoke, the sedentary orientation provided "Valkyrie" with a VR advantage. Pulling off dizzying maneuvers like rolls, spins and corkscrews

active appearance, separately navigated by Project Morpheus senior software engineer Anton Mikhailov on a DualShock 4 controller.

The parts of the landscape closest to the user were crafted from rover imagery, while mountainous vistas in the distance were filled in using satellite data. By depicting the surreal sensation of strolling around a chunk of the Red Planet, the minimalistic demo was the most immersive of those on display and showed off the non-

the headset's screen that could reach out and wield swords and a crossbow.

For example, the wand-like controllers could be used to slice off the mannequin's arm with one hand and grab it with the other before gruesomely wiggling the appendage and discarding it into the distance. The controllers flawlessly mimicked hand movement in the virtual castle yard, but a lack of interactive elements in the surrounding space left a desire for more. □

Brighter US economy data boosts stocks

STEVE ROTHWELL

AP Markets Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The U.S. stock market bounced back on Thursday.

Encouraging signs on the first day of spring that the economy is emerging from its winter slumber helped boost stocks a day after the market dipped on concerns that the Federal Reserve would raise interest rates sooner than investors had anticipated.

The stock market has become more volatile this year as Fed policy makers have started reducing their economic stimulus, and investors have fretted whether the economy is strong enough to maintain its recovery without the central bank's support.

"The economy is likely to have a good bounce in the spring time," said Peter Cardillo, chief market economist at Rockwell Global Capital. "The market is reacting to the good economic news."

The Standard & Poor's 500 index rose 11.24 points, or 0.6 percent, to 1,872.01. The Dow Jones industrial average gained 108.88 points, or 0.7 percent, to 16,331.05. The Nasdaq composite climbed 11.68 points, or 0.3 percent, to 4,319.29.

The S&P 500 game within a fraction of a point of wiping out all of its losses from a day earlier, when it dropped 11.48 points.

Stocks started the day lower, extending their losses from Wednesday, as investors mulled comments the day before from Fed Chair Janet Yellen, who set the stage for a possible inter-

est rate hike by the middle of next year. The Fed on Wednesday also dropped its previous position of saying it would consider raising interest rates once the unemployment rate declined to 6.5 percent. Unemployment is currently 6.7 percent. Higher interest rates could slow the economy by raising the cost of borrowing money. That could

growth will accelerate following a severe winter. The Conference Board's index of leading indicators increased 0.5 percent following a slight 0.1 percent rise in January and a 0.1 percent decline in December. The Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia said separately that manufacturing rebounded in that region in March as new orders in-

3-D printing companies were among the losers after ExOne reported a fourth quarter loss late Wednesday and said its revenue fell. ExOne slid \$4.35, or 10 percent, to \$39.40. Other 3D-printer companies, including Stratasys and 3D Systems, also fell.

The stock market is in the sixth year of a bull market and has risen 172 percent



Specialist Charles Boedinghaus, right, works at his post on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange. Encouraging signs on the first day of spring that the economy is emerging from its winter slumber helped boost stocks on Thursday, March 20, 2014.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

hold companies back from borrowing to expand their businesses or discourage consumers from taking out loans such as mortgages. The market turned higher in mid-morning trading following news that a measure of the U.S. economy's health rose in February by the largest amount in three months. That suggests

creased. Microsoft was among the big gainers on Thursday. The software company's stock climbed \$1.06, or 2.7 percent, to \$40.33 after analysts at Morgan Stanley said a rumored plan to make a version of its Office software available for iPad devices could generate \$1.2 billion in annual revenue.

since March, 2009. That rise has been underwritten by the Fed's stimulus, which has strengthened the economy by keeping interest rates low.

As the Fed cuts back on its stimulus, investors are splitting into roughly two camps, said Omar Aguilar, Chief Investment Officer at Charles Schwab. □

AT&T to take orders Friday for new Samsung phone

NEW YORK (AP) — AT&T says it will start taking orders for Samsung's new Galaxy S5 smartphone starting Friday.

The phone will ship in a few weeks and will cost \$200 with a two-year service agreement or \$650 without a contract.

Samsung has said the phone will start shipping worldwide on April 11. Other carriers are also expect-

ed to carry it, though prices haven't been announced yet.

Announced last month at the Mobile World Congress wireless show in Barcelona, Spain, the S5 will have a 5.1-inch (12.95-centimeter) screen, measured diagonally, and a 16-megapixel camera.

The S5 will also have a fingerprint sensor to use in place of a passcode to

unlock the phone or make payments through PayPal. And it will have a heart-rate sensor to measure fitness activities.

Samsung is the leading maker of cellphones, helped by the popularity of its Galaxy line.

It is now pushing into the emerging market for wearable devices. AT&T says it will sell the Gear 2 smartwatch for \$299, a price

comparable with the original model last year. Two devices with fewer features, the Gear 2 Neo and the Gear Fit, will go for \$199 each.

All three devices offer fitness tracking and other features and will be available April 11 as well.

Samsung Electronics Co. didn't announce prices when it unveiled its new products. □

COMMODITIES

Gold prices sink on expectation of interest rates

NEW YORK (AP) — Gold and silver settled lower Thursday on expectations that the Federal Reserve will start raising interest rates next year. The contract for gold in April fell \$10.80 to settle at \$1,330.50 an ounce. Silver for May delivery lost 40 cents, or 2 percent, to \$20.43 an ounce. Fed Chair Janet Yellen said Wednesday that the central bank's support program for the economy will likely end later this year and that a move to raise short-term rates could happen six months later. Higher interest rates, which lower the risk of inflation, diminish the appeal of buying gold and other precious metals as investments. Corn for delivery in the same month slipped 9 cents to \$4.79 a bushel, and soybeans for May rose 3 cents to \$14.34 a bushel. In oil and gas trading, benchmark crude oil fell 94 cents to close at \$99.43 a barrel. □

Oil, natural gas tank following supply reports

NEW YORK (AP) — Oil and natural gas fell Thursday on concerns that demand for both is waning. Benchmark U.S. crude for April delivery dropped 94 cents to \$99.43 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract expires Thursday. Most trading has moved to the May contract, which fell 27 cents at \$98.90 a barrel. Natural gas lost 12 cents to \$4.37 per 1,000 cubic feet. A day after the Energy Department's weekly report on crude oil supplies, traders paid more attention to data showing that supplies rose by nearly 6 million barrels in the week ended March 14. On Thursday, the Energy Department said supplies of natural gas fell by 48 billion cubic feet last week. Analysts surveyed by Platts were expecting a decline of between 57 billion cubic feet and 61 billion cubic feet. □

Akebia, MediWound rise as health IPOs continue

NEW YORK (AP) — Drug developer Akebia Therapeutics and burn treatment maker MediWound both went public Thursday as the tide of health care IPOs continued to rise.

The health care sector has seen more IPOs than any other industry over the last year.

Akebia Therapeutics raised \$100 million before expenses, as the company expanded its IPO to 5.9 million shares and the offering priced at \$17 per share.

The Cambridge, Massachusetts, company had expected to sell 4.9 million shares at \$14 to \$17 a share. The company the proceeds of its IPO will find development of its anemia treatment AKB-6548 and studies of a potential cancer treatment as well as working capital.

Shares of Akebia Therapeutics Inc. are listed on the Nasdaq Global market under the ticker symbol "AKBA." They advanced \$6.19, or 36.4 percent, to

\$23.19 in midday trading. MediWound raised \$70 million, as its IPO of 5 million shares priced at \$14 each. That was at the low end of MediWound's expectations, as it expected the offering to price at \$14 to \$16 per share.

The Israeli company will use the IPO proceeds to expand its sales and marketing and research and development operations and build up additional manufacturing capacity.

MediWound Ltd. shares

climbed \$3.01, or 21.5 percent, to \$17.01.

The stock is listed on the Nasdaq Global Market under the ticker symbol "MDWD."

Elsewhere, shares of online banking software maker Q2 Holdings Inc. also traded higher. Q2's IPO priced at the high end of expectations, with 7.8 million shares starting at \$13 million for a total of \$101 million in gross proceeds. The stock gained \$2.55, or 19.6 percent, to \$15.55. □

STREET BRIEFS

McDonald's COO Fenton is retiring

NEW YORK (AP) — McDonald's says its chief operating officer is retiring and that it won't refill the position. The company says Tim Fenton, 56, will retire in October then act as a special adviser to CEO Don Thompson. The Oak Brook, Illinois-based company says Fenton will not be replaced. Instead, it's expanding the responsibilities for Chief Financial Officer Pete Bensen and Global Chief Brand Officer Steve Easterbrook. "It's widely known that I battle severe asthma," Fenton said in a statement explaining his retirement. "I simply cannot continue to meet the global travel demands of this position and will focus on improving my health closer to home." Fenton joined McDonald's as a restaurant employee in 1973. The move comes as McDonald's Corp. fights to boost sales after years of outperforming its rivals. □

Symantec's CEO Bennett is fired

NEW YORK (AP) — Security software maker Symantec says it terminated President and CEO Steve Bennett's employment and named director Michael Brown as his temporary replacement. Bennett has been president and CEO of the company since July 2012. Symantec said Thursday that he resigned from the board of directors after his termination. He was also chairman of the company until Symantec split the chairman and CEO roles in January 2013. The Mountain View, California, company did not cite a precise reason for Bennett's ouster. "This considered decision was the result of an ongoing deliberative process, and not precipitated by any event or impropriety," Symantec Chairman Dan Schulman said in a press release. Brown has been with the company since July 2005. □

Wal-Mart looks to shake winter with sales push

ANNE D'INNOCENZIO

AP Retail Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Wal-Mart Stores Inc. is hoping to shake off the winter sales doldrums with its biggest spring sales push ever.

The world's largest retailer is discounting more than 60 outdoor essentials from lawn mowers to mulch by 30 percent to 50 percent in a push that aims to take business from competitors like Home Depot Inc. and Lowe's Cos.

The sale starts Friday and will run through March 29. Items include a seven piece-Mainstays patio furniture set for \$298, \$15 stacking sling chairs, \$88 Kingsford charcoal grills and \$144 lawnmowers from brands like Murray and Snapper.

Shoppers can also find five bags of Miracle-Gro garden soil for \$10 and bags of mulch for \$1.97 each. The event will be advertised in a 12-page Sunday circular. Wal-Mart, based in Bentonville, Ark., says the sale was planned last summer as executives received forecasts that the winter was going to be especially harsh. But the company made changes since then because the winter was even more severe than expected.

Wal-Mart is counting on an extra boost in sales from items like garden soil as shoppers prepare to restore their gardens and outdoor living spaces hurt by a series of winter storms. Wal-Mart and other retail-

ers have seen their sales chilled by storms that caused them to close hundreds of stores and kept shoppers at home. The discounter said in February that during the height of winter storms, it had more than 200 stores closed.

In an interview with The Associated Press, Michelle Gloeckler, Wal-Mart's senior vice president of home, described the sales event

as offering Black Friday-like prices.

"I love the fact that we had a rough winter because people are going to be so ready," she said. She noted that Wal-Mart dramatically increased the quantities of items such as mulch and other outdoor products, in anticipation of increased customer demand. She declined to offer figures.

Wal-Mart's lawn and gar-

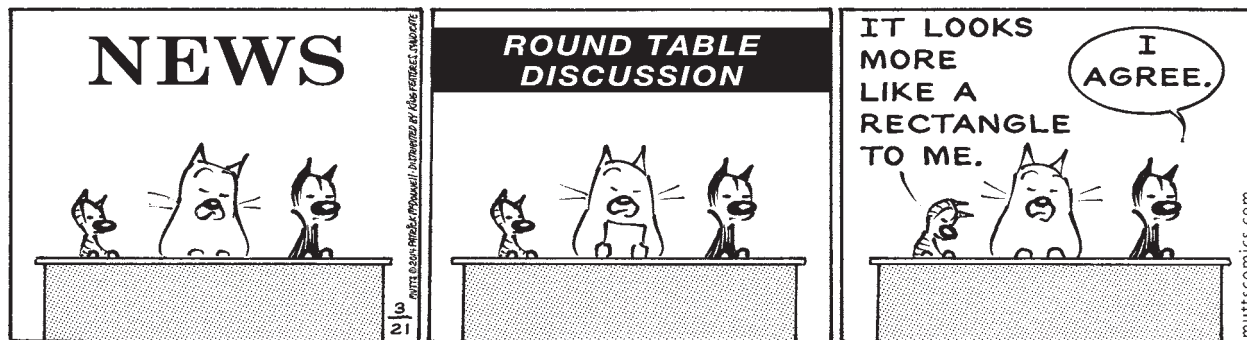
den offerings, including plants, are also tailored to the climates of each region. For example, customers in southern markets such as Dallas and Atlanta will find warmer-season plants including petunias and marigolds. Shoppers in northern markets like Chicago and New York will find cold-tolerant varieties such as pansies and snapdragons. □



An outdoors sign for Walmart is seen in Duarte, Calif. After enduring a severe winter that chilled business, Wal-Mart is trying to lure shoppers into its stores with the biggest weapon in its arsenal: a big sale. The world's largest retailer is offering up to 50 percent on more than 60 outdoor items such as lawn mowers and bags of mulch, starting Friday, March 21, 2014, and ending the following Saturday.

(AP Photo/Damian Dovarganes)

Mutts



6 Chix



Blondie



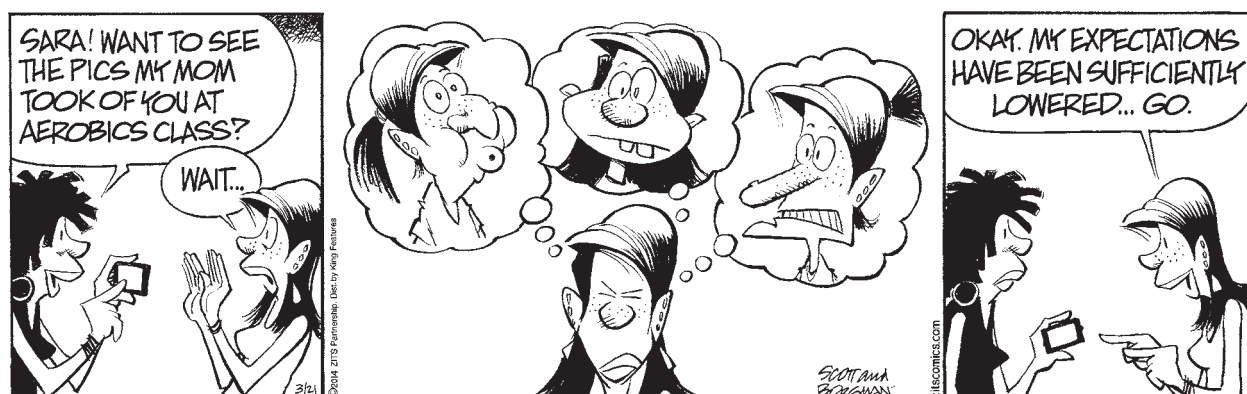
Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

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| | 5 | | 6 | 7 | | 9 | |
| 8 | | | | | | | 1 |
| | 3 | | | | | 4 | |
| | 9 | | 2 | 1 | | 6 | |
| | 1 | | | | | 5 | |
| | 2 | | 8 | 5 | | 3 | |
| | 6 | | | | | 1 | |
| 3 | | | | | | | 9 |
| | 4 | | 5 | 6 | | 8 | |

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

3/21

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 6 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 7 | 5 | 8 | 4 | 9 |
| 5 | 4 | 9 | 8 | 3 | 6 | 2 | 1 | 7 |
| 8 | 2 | 7 | 1 | 9 | 4 | 3 | 5 | 6 |
| 1 | 7 | 2 | 5 | 4 | 9 | 6 | 3 | 8 |
| 3 | 6 | 5 | 7 | 2 | 8 | 1 | 9 | 4 |
| 9 | 8 | 4 | 3 | 6 | 1 | 7 | 2 | 5 |
| 2 | 9 | 3 | 4 | 8 | 7 | 5 | 6 | 1 |
| 7 | 1 | 6 | 9 | 5 | 2 | 4 | 8 | 3 |
| 4 | 5 | 8 | 6 | 1 | 3 | 9 | 7 | 2 |

ACROSS

- 1 Hobo
- 4 Prance about
- 9 "For Your ___ Only"; 007 film
- 13 "Right away!" for short
- 15 Still breathing
- 16 Company's symbol
- 17 Frau's husband
- 18 Short letters
- 19 Thus
- 20 Loyal; unswerving
- 22 Sleeveless top
- 23 Espy; notice
- 24 Years lived
- 26 Rubber end of a pencil
- 29 Plant specialist
- 34 Mother ___; rich ore deposits
- 35 Plunges headfirst
- 36 Mongrel
- 37 Enthusiastic
- 38 Sat for an artist
- 39 Goodyear store purchase
- 40 Peg for EIs
- 41 Passion
- 42 Cuban line dance
- 43 Outbreak; explosion
- 45 Purified
- 46 Skirt's edge
- 47 Accepted standard
- 48 Long story
- 51 Able to soak up liquids
- 56 Has debts
- 57 Understood, though not said
- 58 Breakfast ___; kitchen recess
- 60 Narrow road
- 61 Uneven
- 62 Not wild
- 63 Recolored
- 64 Seamstress
- 65 Chicken's mom

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 |
| 13 | | | 14 | | 15 | | | | | 16 | | | |
| 17 | | | | 18 | | | | | | 19 | | | |
| | 20 | | | 21 | | | | | | 22 | | | |
| | | | 23 | | | | | 24 | 25 | | | | |
| 26 | 27 | 28 | | | | 29 | 30 | | | 31 | 32 | 33 | |
| 34 | | | | | 35 | | | | | 36 | | | |
| 37 | | | | | 38 | | | | | 39 | | | |
| 40 | | | | 41 | | | | | 42 | | | | |
| 43 | | 44 | | | | | | 45 | | | | | |
| | | | 46 | | | | | 47 | | | | | |
| 48 | 49 | 50 | | | 51 | 52 | 53 | | | 54 | 55 | | |
| 56 | | | | | 57 | | | | | 58 | | 59 | |
| 60 | | | | | 61 | | | | | 62 | | | |
| 63 | | | | | 64 | | | | | 65 | | | |

Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

3/21/14

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

| | | |
|---------|---------|--------|
| TAPS | CIDER | PIUS |
| OPEN | ADORE | RASA |
| GENE | PLEAS | OMEN |
| ASTAIRE | SEAWARD | |
| | KOI | METAL |
| ADIEU | BAD | READS |
| FIND | DEC | SORROW |
| TAT | ARABIAN | DIE |
| ENERGY | EAP | TOLL |
| RARER | ATM | DARYL |
| | LEASH | FIB |
| SCREENS | BANANAS | |
| LOAN | KABUL | SODA |
| OMIT | LIONS | COZY |
| BEDS | ELATE | ONES |

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3/21/14

- 41 Feasted
- 42 Where street meets sidewalk
- 44 ___ out; got rid of gradually
- 45 Redcap
- 47 Clamor
- 48 Cry from an auctioneer
- 49 Out of town
- 50 Autry or Wilder
- 52 Naked
- 53 Flat-bottomed boat
- 54 Actor Wyle
- 55 Heavy book
- 59 Barbie's beau

DOWN

- 1 "___! Humbug!"
- 2 Utilizes
- 3 Shopping place
- 4 Frankness
- 5 Up in the air
- 6 Bread for a gyro
- 7 12/24 & 12/31
- 8 Said again
- 9 Morning hour
- 10 Days of ___; olden times
- 11 ___ Benedict; fancy breakfast
- 12 Hearth residue
- 14 Ironed
- 21 Makes fun of
- 25 Car fuel
- 26 Fill with joy
- 27 Wanderer
- 28 "Bye, Pierre!"
- 29 Buffalo
- 30 Above
- 31 Cake coating
- 32 Sudden increase
- 33 ___ on; trample
- 35 Birdbrain
- 38 Monkeys and gorillas
- 39 Great pain

Ex-Microsoft worker accused of trade-secret leaks, FBI says

SEATTLE (AP) — FBI agents arrested a former Microsoft employee Wednesday on charges that he stole trade secrets from the company and leaked them to a blogger. Federal prosecutors are accusing Alex A. Kibkalo of stealing trade secrets related to pre-release software updates for Windows 8 and Microsoft's "Activation Server Software Development Kit," and giving that information to a tech blogger in France. Kibkalo is a Russian national and former seven-year Microsoft employee who worked as a software architect in Lebanon, according to a complaint filed Monday in U.S. District Court in Western Washington.

Federal agents made the arrest Wednesday morning in Bellevue, where he apparently was traveling. He lives in Russia, The Seattle Times reported.

The complaint says an internal investigation by Microsoft concluded that in July and August 2012, Kibkalo uploaded the proprietary software to a computer in Redmond and then to his personal SkyDrive account. Kibkalo then allegedly provided the blogger with links to the files on his account and encouraged the blogger to share the software development kit with those "who might be able to reverse engineer the software and write 'fake activation server' code," the complaint says.

Microsoft investigators interviewed Kibkalo in September 2012, and Kibkalo admitted he had provided confidential Microsoft products and information to the blogger, including "internal unreleased 'hot-fixes' for Windows 8, 'code for the PID generator' (a technical description of the SDK), unreleased versions of Windows Live messenger and documents and presentations about products," an FBI agent said in the complaint. □

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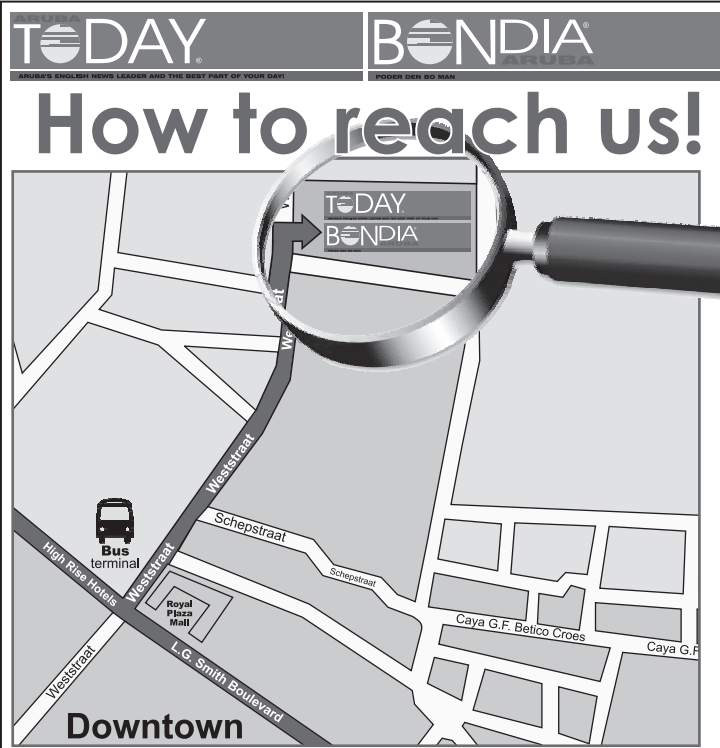
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Spring forecast: Cool in North, still dry in West

By **ALICIA CHANG**
AP Science Writer

The first day of spring? Some people in Maine were shoveling 6 inches of new snow. And in Michigan, college students couldn't even burn a snowman.

Ok, so it was a fake snowman. But it was real snow that got in the way.

For many Americans, it feels like winter is hanging on like a bad cold.

And now government forecasters are predicting a cooler-than-usual spring across the northern U.S. Even just next week, frigid Arctic air is expected to blanket parts of the East.

"This is one of those winters - the gift that keeps on giving," said Jon Gottschalk of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

The stubborn cold is delaying any flooding into April in the upper Midwest to New England.

While major flooding is not expected during the next three months, forecasters said the greatest threat ex-



Donald Croteau works to clear nearly a foot of snow off his car on the first day of spring, Thursday, March 20, 2014 in North Woodstock, N.H.

Associated Press

ists in the southern Great Lakes because of above-normal snowpack, thick ice on streams and rivers, and snow on the ground.

Experts warned of possible isolated flooding in certain areas depending on how fast snow melts and how much rain falls.

After a miserable winter, residents in parts of Maine dug out again on the first day of spring. The snowfall knocked out power to some.

"I'm just looking forward to not bundling up," said 33-year-old Rich Maggi, while taking a smoke break

in the downtown Portland area where the snow had melted by midday. "I think this was hard on even the most winter-hardened people."

Prolonged wintry weather forced a Michigan university to delay a yearly rite of spring - the burning of a

fake snowman - after the campus was blanketed with 5 inches of snow overnight on top of knee-deep drifts.

Officials at Lake Superior State University in Michigan's Upper Peninsula near the Canadian border said the snow and high winds raised safety concerns, and the ceremony was moved to Friday.

The snowman stuffed with shredded paper usually is dubbed Frosty. But this one was named Polar Vortex after the frigid air mass that punished the East Coast and Midwest this winter and pushed cold into the South.

Since the snowman is usually lit with a propane torch, "you've got sparks flying, and we don't need anybody to get a hole burned in a coat or worse," said university spokesman Tom Pink.

Some were disappointed but others preferred waiting until Friday "when it's supposed to be sunny - at least a little like spring," he said. □

'Chicken from hell' dinosaur gets a proper name

MALCOLM RITTER
AP Science Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — It's called the chicken from hell: a birdlike dinosaur some 7 feet (2.1 meters) tall that weighed around 500 pounds (226 kilograms) when it roamed western North America on its long, slender hind legs.

The beast got its nickname long ago at the Carnegie Museum of Natural History in Pittsburgh, where a replica of its skeleton has been on display for a decade.

But the species has had no scientific name. Until now.

The creature was formally

introduced to the scientific community Wednesday as scientists published a description and analysis of its anatomy, and finally bestowed a name: Anzu wyliei. The moniker comes from a mythological feathered demon plus the name of a Carnegie museum trustee's grandson.

Anzu had a toothless beak and a crest on its skull like a rooster's comb, combined with long arms and sharp claws up to about 4 inches (10 centimeters) long. It apparently also had feathers over much of its body.

The analysis, in the journal

PLoS One, concludes that Anzu belongs to a group of dinosaurs that scientists knew little about, because they had recovered only

fragmentary remains from its members. In contrast, the three specimens of Anzu from North and South Dakota that were included

in the analysis collectively supply a nearly complete skeleton, said Matthew Lamanna of the Carnegie museum. Anzu "reveals the anatomy of these creatures almost from head to toe," said Lamanna, lead author of the new paper.

The dinosaur lived some 66 million to 68 million years ago in a hot and humid landscape, rather like the Louisiana bayou, he said. It ate plants and maybe small animals when it wasn't fleeing from a hungry and much bigger T. rex, he said.

When it came to naming the creature, why not go with a spiffed-up version of "chicken from hell?"

That was actually the first choice, Lamanna said. But it turns out the phrase isn't nearly as catchy in Latin or Greek.

"All the names we came up with were just ridiculously unpronounceable," he said. □



This undated photo provided by the Carnegie Museum of Natural History on March 18, 2014 shows a reconstruction of the skeleton of the dinosaur Anzu wyliei.

Associated Press

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3 sons unite to create new Roy Orbison song



This Dec. 7, 1988 file photo shows singer and guitarist Roy Orbison, at a local night club where he was appearing in Boston, Mass. **Associated Press**

CHRIS TALBOTT
AP Music Writer

NASHVILLE, Tennessee (AP) — Roy Orbison's three sons are all musicians but never really got to play

music with their dad — until now. Wesley, Roy Jr. and Alex Orbison have helped create a new song by their father that will appear on the 25th anniversary reissue and

expansion of Orbison's final album, "Mystery Girl." They found an old vocal track for a song called "The Way is Love" originally recorded on a boombox and were able to reclaim it using technology that had to be created to accomplish the work. They then added new instrumentation with the help of another son of a music legend, co-producer John Carter Cash.

"It really brought us closer together in a lot of ways," said Alex Orbison, 38, who contributed drums and backing vocals to the track. "We were able to finish it up and get it out by Father's Day, too, which was obviously special to us." "Mystery Girl" will be re-released May 20 with "The Way is Love" one of nine previously unheard songs. Alex Orbison also directed a documentary. Orbison was going through a career renaissance at the time he released "Mystery Girl." The "Oh, Pretty Woman" singer had just earned

a new round of attention working with Bob Dylan, George Harrison, Jeff Lynne and Tom Petty in The Travelling Wilburys and was excited about the new album.

It included contributions from Lynne, Petty and most of his Heartbreakers, Bono and the Edge of U2, Elvis Costello and many other friends. His wife, Barbara, acted as his manager at the time and even sang backup on the album. Wesley Orbison wrote a song as well. Sadly, though, he passed away two months before its release in February 1989 at age 52.

His sons got to experience something of that excitement nearly a quarter of a century later. They weren't able to record with their dad, but it most definitely was a family moment.

"We all just wanted to not stop recording," Alex Orbison said. "That was the first thing: 'When are we going to do an Orbison Brothers record? We had so much fun. It was really too much fun.'" □

'Phantom of the Opera' welcomes first black lead

MARK KENNEDY
AP Drama Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Norm Lewis has been tapped to

be Broadway's next Phantom in the megahit "The Phantom of the Opera," a move that makes him

the first African-American to slip behind the famous mask on the Great White Way. Producers said Thursday the Tony Award nominee, who brought his deep and rich voice as Porgy to the recent "Porgy and Bess" revival, will make his "Phantom" debut opposite a returning Sierra Boggess as Christine beginning May 12. "I'm overwhelmed. The idea of doing something that I've always wanted to do and it coming to fruition is amazing," Lewis said in a phone interview Thursday. Lewis, who has appeared as a senator in ABC's "Scandal" with Kerry Washington, called the Phantom a dream job for two reasons: "I love the show but also to have hopefully set a precedent to see more diversity in casting," he said.

Lewis played John in "Miss Saigon" on Broadway, Javert on Broadway in "Les Misérables" in 2006 and was in the shows "Side Show," "The Little Mermaid," "Chicago" and "Sondheim on Sondheim." Lewis will be the first black Phantom on Broadway, though Robert Guillaume played the role in the Los Angeles production in 1990.

Boggess is an old hand with "Phantom" — she played Christine in both the musical's London 25th anniversary production at Royal Albert Hall and Broadway 25th Anniversary cast last year. Her other starring Broadway credits include Terrence McNally's "Master Class" and originating the title role in Disney's "The Little Mermaid."

Based on a novel by Gaston Leroux, "Phantom" tells the story of a deformed composer who haunts the Paris Opera House and falls madly in love with an innocent young soprano, Christine. Andrew Lloyd Webber's lavish songs include "Masquerade," "Angel of Music," "All I Ask of You," "The Phantom of the Opera" and "The Music of the Night."

Lewis will join a list of Phantoms since the show opened in 1988 that includes Michael Crawford, Steve Barton, John Cudia, Kevin Gray, Mark Jacoby, Marcus Lovett, Brad Little, Howard McGillin and Hugh Panaro.

Lewis said he's seen "Phantom" several times over the years and cites McGillin and Panaro as quintessential Phantoms — "even be-



This May 18, 2012 file photo shows actor Norm Lewis at the 78th Annual Drama League Awards in New York. **Associated Press**

hind the masks, they were so debonair and sexy and handsome," Lewis said.

"I hope to bring that same sort of mystique and class and elegance to the role. It's an actor's dream to play a character that's so misunderstood and to try to make him a character who is understood."

The musical has played to over 130 million people in 27 countries and has grossed over \$5.6 billion worldwide — more than any film in history, including "Avatar," "Titanic," "Gone With the Wind" and "Star Wars." □

Fergie launches training to help abused women

LARA JAKES
AP National Security Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Songstress Fergie says the number of women who are abused by their partners "is totally unacceptable" and should be protected by existing laws that are often not enforced. The Black Eyed Peas singer was at the State Department on Thursday to announce a new Justice Institute on Gender-Based Violence initiative to launch training programs in India, Nepal, South Africa and Mexico. The training will bring together law enforcement, service providers and advocacy groups to ensure that abused women can rely



This March 22, 2012 file photo shows singer Stacy "Fergie" Ferguson in New York. **Associated Press**

on laws that too often are not understood by local authorities or ignored. Avon Products Inc. is funding the four training centers for \$650,000. Fergie is a global ambassador for the Avon Foundation for Women. One in three women worldwide will be abused by their partners during their lives. □

'Walking with Dinosaurs' eyes North America return

MARK KENNEDY
AP Drama Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The dinosaurs are ready to roar across America again — but they're sporting a new look. "Walking with Dinosaurs, the Arena Spectacular" is coming back to the U.S. and Canada — its first visit to North America since its inaugural 2007 tour — and many of its lifelike puppets will be wearing downy feathers.

"We've decided to bring them up to date," said the show's self-described "resident dino geek" Philip Miller. "I've been going on about feathers for some years now. And now we've finally taken the leap and we're applying the feathers to the dinosaurs we're fairly confident had feathers."

Recent discoveries by paleontologist point to the possibility that a large number of non-avian dinosaurs had feathers or something similar — paleontologists call it "dino fuzz" — as part of their body covering, blurring the distinction between dinosaurlike birds and birdlike dinosaurs.

The show, based on an award-winning BBC Television series, travels 200 million years from Triassic to the Jurassic and Cretaceous periods, features 20



This image released by Boneau/Bryan-Brown shows a man in a baby Tyrannosaurus Rex costume in Times Square, Thursday, March 20, 2014 in New York to promote the "Walking with Dinosaurs, the Arena Spectacular."

Associated Press

life-size dinosaurs from 10 species, including a mother Tyrannosaurus Rex and her baby, both of which will now have feathers. Miller said the new feathered creatures may be a shock to some in the audience. He notes that the ferocious T-rex is more closely related in time and anatomy to a sparrow than a Stegosaurus.

"People's popular ideas

tend not to keep up with the science, so you'll find some people tend to draw T-Rexes at a 45-degree angle or they talk about Brontosaurus in a swamp and things like that. The science has moved on."

The new tour kicks off in Cleveland at Quicken Loans Arena from July 9-13, then hits The Barclay's Center in New York City from July 16-20 and then The

Prudential Center in New Jersey from July 23-27. Other stops are planned for Los Angeles, Kansas City, Montreal, Oklahoma City, Phoenix, Salt Lake City and Milwaukee, Wis.

The largest dinosaur in the show is the 36-foot tall, 56-foot long Brachiosaurus. It takes three people to operate the biggest puppets and each large one weighs 1.6 tons, the weight

of a standard family car.

A team of 50 costume designers and engineers have been working since last year to re-create the ancient creatures, The animatronic dinosaurs bat their reptilian eyelids and gnash their teeth with a startling ferocity.

The show is produced by Global Creatures, the Australian company behind the new musical "King Kong," "War Horse" and "How To Train Your Dragon." Worldwide, more than 8 million people have seen the dinosaur show in 243 cities.

Miller is a little tickled that the show will land in America in 2014, where debate continues to rage over both evolution and climate change. "Dinosaurs are deeply charismatic. They are very deeply appealing to children. And so I think it's important that the curriculum around that is fact-based and the way evolution works and the way the history of the planet works" he said.

"I mean, climate change killed the dinosaurs. It wasn't just a meteor. The meteor precipitated making climate change which led to the extinction. So there's some fairly important lessons from these creatures." □

Salman Rushdie, Twitter CEO to receive PEN awards

NEW YORK (AP) — One writes novels and likes to tweet. The other is Twitter's CEO. Both men, Salman Rushdie and Dick Costolo, will be honored May 5 in New York at the annual gala of the PEN American Center. The literary organization told The Associated Press on Thursday that

Rushdie will receive its PEN/Allen Foundation Literary Service Award, citing the "unparalleled courage" of Rushdie, a former PEN president who spent years in hiding after his novel "The Satanic Verses" drew death threats from the Iranian government. Nobel laureate Toni Morrison, who

won the award in 2008, will introduce Rushdie.

Costolo will be given the inaugural PEN/Toni and James C. Goodale Digital Freedom Award, in recognition of Twitter being "a powerful new tool" for free expression worldwide. PEN has not decided who will present him. □



This Sept. 8, 2012 file photo shows author Salman Rushdie posing during the 2012 Toronto International Film Festival in Toronto. Associated Press

Denis Johnson, Tobias Wolff to enter arts academy

HILLEL ITALIE
AP National Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Fiction writers Denis Johnson, Ha Jin and Tobias Wolff are among this year's inductees into the American

Academy of Arts and Letters. Others voted in include fiction writer-essayist Wendell Berry, composers David Lang and Alvin Singleton, photographer Robert Adams and artists Ann

Hamilton and Bill Jensen. The academy said Thursday that cookbook author and restaurateur Alice Waters will become an American honorary member. Foreign honorary members

include novelists Haruki Murakami, Colm Toibin and John Banville.

The academy is an honor society with a core membership of 250 writers, musicians and artists. It was

founded in 1898.

Inductees are voted in by current members, who range from Toni Morrison to Stephen Sondheim. They formally join the academy at a ceremony in May. □

How cities change



David Brooks

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Shavar Jeffries was born in Newark, N.J., in 1975, the son of a 19-year-old mother who was unprepared to take care of him. He spent the first nine years of his life shuttling between different relatives. Then his mother came back into his life and moved him to California.

Shortly after they moved to Los Angeles, there was a problem with the lock to their apartment door. Jeffries' mom called the locksmith and soon began a relationship with him. One evening the locksmith was looking over her phone bill and found a number he didn't like.

He smacked her in the head and sent her hurtling across the room. The beatings continued from then on.

Once his mother picked up Jeffries from Little League wearing big sunglasses, her eyes blackened underneath. Another day she tried to bar the locksmith from their apartment, but he kicked through the door. She moved to Burbank and got restraining orders, but on Nov. 25, 1985, the locksmith stalked her workplace and killed her with a sawed-off shotgun.

Jeffries was brought back to Newark and lived for a few months with his father. But one day he came home and his father had vanished, without leaving a note. By this time, he was numb; he just figured this was the way life is.

His grandparents took him in, and he spent the rest of his childhood with them, living on a street called Harding Terrace in the South Ward of Newark.

William Spear, who grew up on Harding Terrace a few years later, describes the street the way Jane Jacobs describes Greenwich Village in the 1950s: There were eyes everywhere. "You couldn't cut class, because the neighbors would see you and call you on it," Spear recalls. The neighbors couldn't and can't stop the worst violence - Spear's brother was killed in 2012 when a street fight sent bullets flying through a block party - but they could keep some kids in line.

Jeffries' grandparents brought stability to his life.

He became active with the Boys and Girls Club. He did well in grade school, won a scholarship to Seton Hall Prep, then won scholarships to Duke and Columbia Law School, got a prestigious clerkship and began a legal ca-

reer.

And then, having escaped Newark, he moved back to the crime-ridden South Ward. He has worked as a civil rights lawyer. He was the founding board president of a charter school in the Knowledge Power Program called Team Academy.

He became an associate law professor at Seton Hall and took a leave from that to serve as assistant attorney general. In 2010, he ran for the Newark school board and became its president. Now Jeffries is running for mayor of Newark against City Councilman Ras Baraka. The race has taken on a familiar shape: regular vs. reformer.

Baraka has the support of most of the major unions and political organizations. Over the years, he has combined a confrontational 1970s style of racial rhetoric with a transactional, machine-like style of politics.

Baraka is well known in Newark, and it shows. There are Baraka signs everywhere there.

Jeffries is the outsider and the reformer, promising to end the favor trading in government and modernize the institutions. Three months ago, it looked as though he had no shot of winning. And, according to close observers, he has not organized a particularly effective campaign. But he is an eloquent speaker and has strong people skills.

His candidacy has become something of a cause célèbre among New York Democrats who fear Baraka would reverse the strides Newark has recently taken. Jeffries is still the underdog, but the election is much closer than it was.

The election May 13 will be decided on two issues, one cultural and one structural. Jeffries is being portrayed as a Duke- and Columbia-educated law professor, not somebody who is truly of and for Newark. There's a veiled or not-so-veiled debate here over what it means to be authentically African-American.

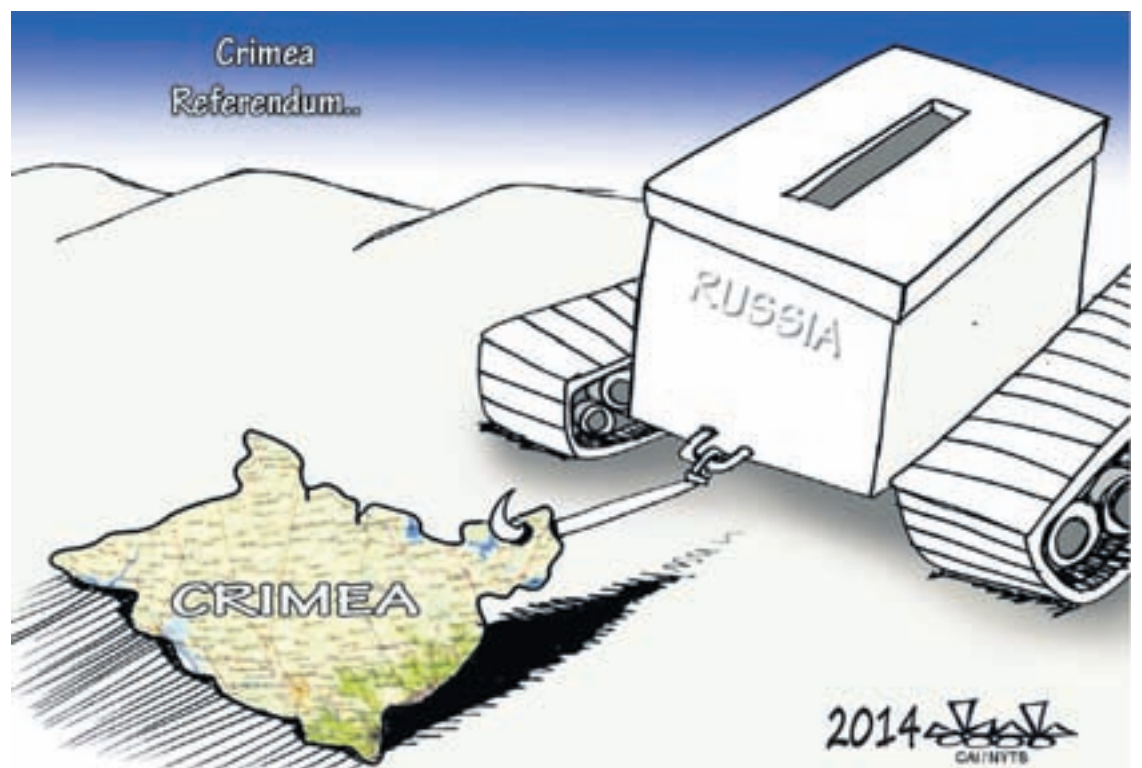
Then there is the split, which we're seeing in cities across the country, between those who represent the traditional political systems and those who want to change them.

In Newark, as elsewhere, charter schools are the main flash point in this divide.

Middle-class municipal workers, including members of the teachers' unions, tend to be suspicious of charters. The poor, who favor school choice, and the affluent, who favor education reform generally, tend to support charters.

These contests aren't left versus center; they are over whether urban government will change or stay the same. Over the years, public-sector jobs have provided steady income for millions of people nationwide.

But city services have failed, leaving educational and human devastation in cities like Newark. Reformers like Jeffries rise against all odds from the devastation. They threaten the old stability but offer a shot at improvement and change. □



From Putin, a blessing in disguise



Thomas L. Friedman

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There are a lot of people who seem intent on restarting the Cold War - in both Moscow and Washington. I am not one of them. But if we're going to have a new Cold War, then I have one condition: I want a new moonshot.

The Space Race and the technologies it produced weren't purely an offshoot of the U.S.-Soviet missile competition, but they were certainly energized by that competition. Well, if we're going to go at it again, this time I want an Earth Race. I want America to lead in developing an energy policy that will weaken the oil-and-gas-autocracy of Russian President Vladimir Putin, and, as a byproduct, produce the technologies that will mitigate climate change, make America a global technology and moral leader and ensure that the next generation can thrive here on Earth.

And as opposed to the stimulus/deficit debate, in the energy case, there really is now the raw material for a "Grand Bargain" between Democrats and Republicans - if President Barack Obama wants to try to forge it. Such an energy grand strategy would be a first. It's shocking how devoid of strategic intent U.S. energy policy has been. Both political parties have repeatedly let our economy be hostage to Middle Eastern and Latin American oil despots and to energy booms and busts.

The key ingredients for a new U.S. energy strategy, argues Hal

Harvey, the CEO of Energy Innovation, is, first, "to optimize affordability, reliability and clean together, rather than one at the expense of the other." Second to "take advantage of new technology, we finally have the capacity to build an energy system we can be proud of, and by choosing this future, we will stimulate even more technologies that deliver energy that is indeed affordable, reliable and clean." And, third, to "ensure that our natural gas bonanza actually ushers in a truly clean future."

Here's the deal Obama should offer oil-patch Republicans and Democrats. "You really want to open up the country to the exploration of natural gas? You really want to be free to export oil and gas to global markets - so long as it's consistent with our national interests - and affect global markets in ways that could weaken Putinism? You really want the Keystone pipeline? Fine, I'll give you all of it. And in return you'll give me a bridge to a secure, clean-energy future for America."

Harvey argues that such a deal should include the following: First, to ensure that natural gas is a boon rather than a curse, the oil and gas industry - and the lawmakers they control - have to accept national rules for extracting natural gas based on known best practices, including strategies that eliminate the leakage of methane, which is so much more potent a greenhouse gas than carbon dioxide.

Second, we need to set a national clean energy standard for electricity. One popular approach is to require utilities to raise the fraction of their electricity from zero-carbon sources - such as wind, solar or nuclear - by, say, 2 percent per year. Such a standard creates a market for renewables, which drives down costs, and helps ensure that natural gas is a transition fuel that replaces coal, not solar, wind and other clean power sources. Thirty states have some variant of this, and it has been hugely successful in stimulating development of

new technology.

Third, we have to accelerate energy efficiency and clean power technologies by building up our research and development programs to the levels they merit, probably triple today's levels. This is the source of our long-term advantage.

Fourth, we have to impose a revenue-neutral carbon tax - a Republican idea, championed by one of the United States' most respected statesmen, Ronald Reagan's secretary of state, George Shultz - that would replace payroll and corporate taxes.

I don't like Keystone. Extracting oil from tar sands leads to even higher carbon emissions than drilling and devastates the landscape. But, if approval is the price for a truly transformational clean energy policy, I'm in. You're not going to move the vested interests without a trade, but it has to be a smart trade.

This is a grand bargain on energy that would advance our growth, national security and climate policy. If paired with similar efforts by our NATO allies, it would, in time, sharply reduce Putin's ability to blackmail his neighbors, using energy. It would also protect Americans from price shocks, as both the sun and the wind are free, make our farmers, our coastal cities and our public health system much more resilient and tilt our energy policy toward exploiting our advantage - technology - rather than oil.

Nader Mousavizadeh, the co-founder of Macro Advisory Partners, recently recalled for me what a U.S. energy company executive once told him: "The one thing we're never going to run out of is technology." We need to play to our strength.

I would hate to see Obama spend the next 2 1/2 years just counting HealthCare.gov sign-ups. He needs to recognize that Putin's Crimea adventure has created the opportunity for a legacy project of moving the U.S. into a clean energy future - a move that would make us stronger, Putin weaker and the world safer. □

Hey, Hey, Hey! It's Animated Touchstones

FELICIA R. LEE

© 2014 New York Times

Growing up in the 1970s at opposite ends of New York state, two girls were immersed in all things cool, black and funky.

Saturday morning cartoons won their hearts. Loreen Williamson, in Rochester, and Pamela Thomas, in the Bronx, would park themselves in front of the "The Jackson Five," featuring a tiny Michael sporting a big Afro, and "Josie and the Pussycats," with the black tambourine-playing Valerie Brown performing in a hip girl band.

Eventually, the two met and bonded over their mutual interests. Not content to leave the funk (or their pasts) behind, Williamson, now 49, and Thomas, 51, have amassed more than 300 pieces of black animation art from the 1960s and '70s, a collection that they believe is one of the world's most extensive in that field.

In 2007, they created the Museum of UnCut Funk, an online showcase for original animation cels, posters, storyboards and other objects celebrating black culture of the 1970s and its standard-bearers. Now, the two collectors have hit the road with a traveling museum exhibition, "Funky Turns 40: Black Character Revolution," which represents 24 animated productions, including Saturday

morning and after-school cartoons and animated feature films.

The revolution that it documents is from stereotype to superhero: "Funky," which is currently at the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture in Harlem and will travel to museums in Chicago, Seattle and West Reading, Pa., honors the cartoons' image-affirming black characters, including those of "The Harlem Globetrotters," "Kid Power," "Schoolhouse Rock" and "Fat Albert and the Cosby Kids."

The programs are more than entertaining nostalgia, the two curators and some cultural historians say. They represent the fruits of a struggle for a say in the representation of blacks in television images, among other rights, and the newfound ability of popular black entertainers to get such programming on the air, based on their own appeal to a wide audience. The shows offered a striking counterpoint to the previous stereotypical portrayals of blacks as buffoons in mainstream films, books, theater, advertising and cartoons.

"It shows a time in American history when art and diversity and civil rights aspirations all came together," said Christopher P. Lehman, a professor of ethnic studies at St. Cloud State University in Minneso-

ta and the author of "The Colored Cartoon: Black Representation in American Animated Short Films, 1907-1954" (University of Massachusetts Press). "Before 1970, African-Americans were not much on television at all, except as the domestic servants of Jack Benny and Danny

the same vein, "The Jackson Five," the first Saturday morning cartoon series featuring black musicians, made its debut in 1971. Both were created by two entertainment powerhouses, Bill Cosby (Fat Albert and the gang were part of his stand-up comedy routine) and Berry Gordy Jr.,



In an undated handout image, Fat Albert, from "Fat Albert and the Cosby Kids," a cartoon that ran from 1972 to 1985. The proprietors of the Museum of UnCut Funk, an online and traveling exhibit celebrating black culture of the 1970s, say that Fat Albert and other cartoons of the era represent more than entertaining nostalgia, but also the fruits of a struggle for equality and representation. (The New York Times)

Thomas or as guests on variety series."

It was no accident that "Hey, Hey, Hey, It's Fat Albert," described by curators as the first "positive" black-cast cartoon on TV (and the basis of the later series), was an NBC prime-time special in 1969, or, in

the founder of Motown Records, who marketed the family music act to appeal to the broadest possible audience.

Recalling her generation's response, Williamson, who works as an independent consultant for marketing and business, said, "We got to see Martin Luther King's dream, at least in cartoon form."

"There was a lot of cross-pollination with what was going on in black culture," she said. "You could watch the cartoons, go to the concerts, see the stars on variety shows. And our white friends were watching, too."

Thomas, a preschool teacher, said: "It made me feel like, wow, I see myself on TV. I started feeling good about myself."

She and Williamson are also avid collectors of blaxploitation film posters and of comic books, stamps and coins with an African-American flavor. The women, who met in 1997, founded an art and

animation gallery that they ran as partners from 2000 to 2003 in Summit, N.J.

They also sought to bring their art and their historical perspective to the attention of museums. But black history exhibitions typically focused on the most tumultuous aspects of the civil rights struggle, and animation is a far more accepted museum subject in Europe and Asia than in this country. Eventually, Thomas and Williamson convinced curators that the Saturday morning children's cartoons reflected an important but overlooked positive moment in cultural and social history.

"At the same time, everybody had a big Afro, and they were saying black is beautiful. You began to see that in TV and film, and you also had this revolution in black animated characters," Williamson said.

While some of the children who watched the cartoons may have looked like and identified with the characters, some parents did not applaud the stories, feeling that like many of that cartoon era, they were not particularly educational. And some critics noted how carefully calibrated the characters were to avoid offending anyone.

Jerry Beck, a historian of animation, said that writers created "a vague persona for the characters," and "then they painted them black."

"There weren't any breakout black characters," he said. "But they were there, and they hadn't been there before, and that's important."

The Fat Albert gang did manage to take on some hard-hitting issues like crime, prison and drug use, said Joseph Wos, executive director of the ToonSeum in Pittsburgh, which presented a smaller version of "Funky Turns 40" in 2012. Black animation "reflects the same time line as acceptance of African-Americans in society," he said. "A lot of people were resistant to it, because it was going to introduce children to a more open society." □



Loreen Williamson, left, and Pamela Thomas, the proprietors of the Museum of UnCut Funk, in New York. (Christopher Gregory/The New York Times)